THE TIMES

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WHY MEN ARE TOO STUPID TO FLIRT
Joe Joseph on the unsubtle art of chatting up, P15

LIBBY PURVES
God bless the Christmas deadline
PAGE 16

WHEN THE DOG EATS THE TURKEY
Your guide to Christmas off-the-cuff

HOW AN ATHEIST FOUND FAITH

Brown attacks critics of reform

Labour 'true defender of welfare state'

By Philip Webster, political editor

GORDON BROWN last night went on the offensive against critics of Labour's welfare shake-up, declaring that the "true defenders of the welfare state are those who are prepared to reform it".

The Chancellor of the Exchequer told Old Labour opponents fighting to derail the biggest reform in 50 years that the "war against poverty in Britain can only be won by the modernisers".

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Brown also sought to reassure his party at all levels, including the Cabinet, that the review would be carried out in a sensitive way. It was not, he said, being driven by the need to make cuts but to improve the system by providing more opportunity to work and more security for those who could not do a job. It would not be an "indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise".

He told critics there would be no backing down. Recent revolts, he suggested, confirmed that some people took time to get used to the idea that "defending the status quo is not the best way forward".

The day after Tony Blair made plain that he was taking overall charge of a process that could make or break his Government, Mr Brown was uncompromising on the need for change, insisted that there was a will for it in the party, and claimed that when the minutes of Cabinet discussions were revealed they would show unanimity for reform.

But after a weekend in which a letter to him from David Blunkett opposing proposals to alter disability benefits gave the first sign of a serious Cabinet split on the issue, Mr Brown tackled head-on the fears of the Left and welfare campaigners that the needy could be hit in the general search for reductions in the £100 billion a year social security budget.

He said: "The reform of welfare is based on principle. It is not cuts-driven; it is not economy-inspired. It is inspired by the need to have a modern system that meets the needs of people and provides the opportunities to them that they need."

> ‘The war against poverty can only be won by the modernisers’

He added: "This is the biggest reform for 50 years. It is something we approach with proper sensitivity to the needs of those people who are dependent on the welfare state. To say that it is an indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise is completely wrong. This is inspired by the need to restore the welfare state to its original purpose of opportunity and security for all on the basis that the true defenders of the welfare state are those that are prepared to make the reforms that are necessary."

Mr Brown said that he had never flinched from difficult decisions and would not do so now: he recalled that as Shadow Chancellor he had first been criticised for his plan to prevent young people taking benefit if they refused all the options available under the welfare-to-work scheme but it was now accepted in the party.

The Chancellor denied suggestions that the Prime Minister's decision to take overall control of the review was a slight to him. He had been keen on the most comprehensive review of welfare and did not think it could have been done any other way.

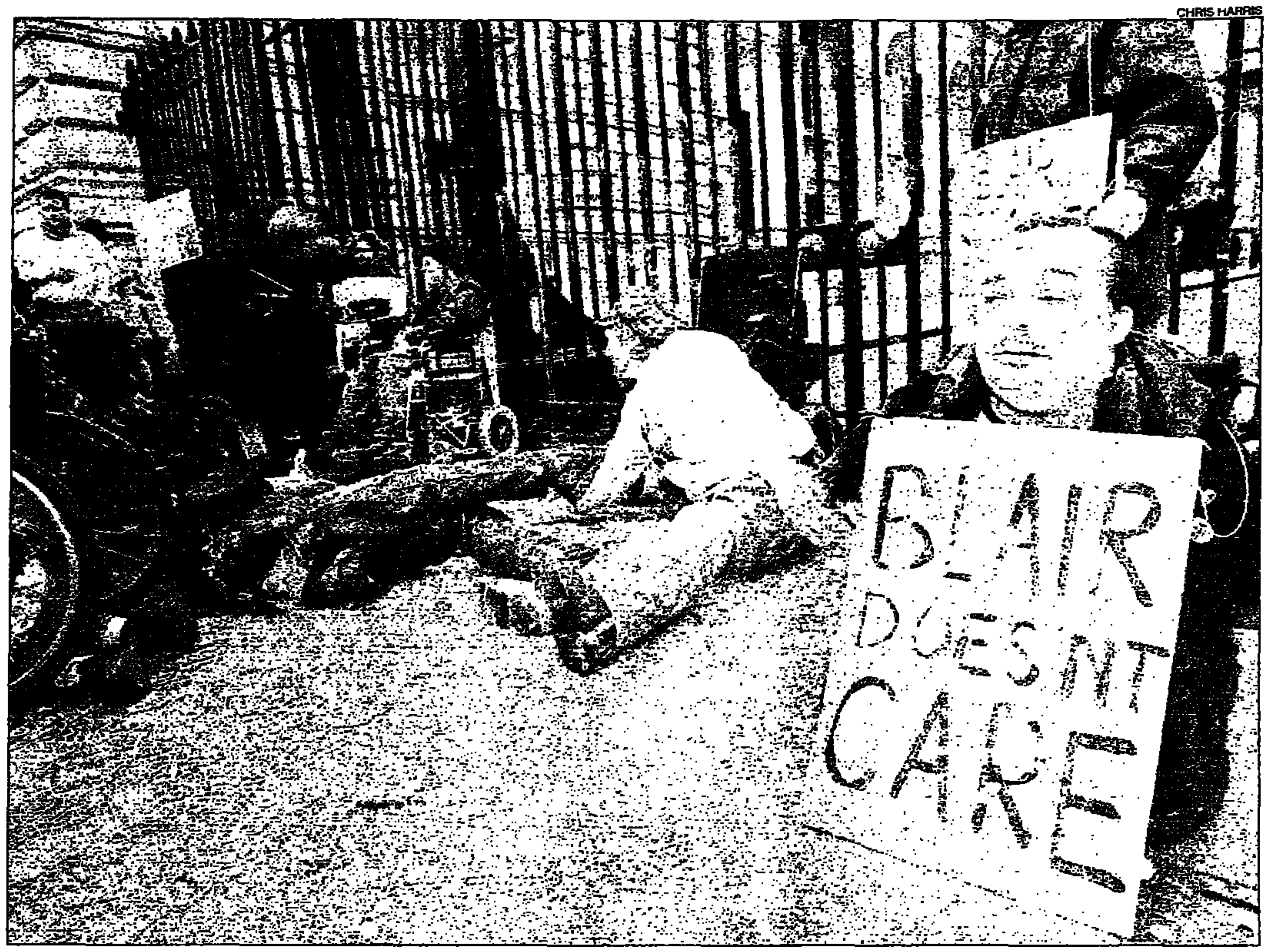
He then issued his battle cry for reform in a way that suggested he accepts the view of many politicians and commentators that only a Labour Government with a thumping majority could ever carry out a true reform of the welfare state.

He said: "The war on poverty, which is what we are fighting, was never won in the past by the old methods. The war on poverty can only be won by the modernisers, prepared to look at how policies have failed in the past and how new approaches are needed to look at the overall use of resources, prepared to generate an anti-poverty strategy that tackles the causes of poverty, which includes unemployment and lack of skills, and prepared to look comprehensively — not in a piecemeal way — at how we can help

Continued on page 2, col 3

Lib-Dem proposals, page 16
Letters, page 17

CHRIS HARRIS



Protesters at the gates of Downing Street yesterday. They said that the Government saw them as "soft targets". A dozen were arrested, but later released

Downing St protest ends in arrests

By Tim Jones

TWELVE severely disabled people protesting against possible cuts in benefits were arrested yesterday after they spattered Downing Street with red paint, handcuffed themselves to the gates and accused Tony Blair of treating them as easy targets.

The 12 were released after receiving formal warnings.

Some of the demonstrators were handed begging bowls by the Disabled People's Direct Action Network, which organised the protest and claimed the paint symbolised the blood that the Prime Minister was "sucking out" of their "hopes, dreams and dignity".

Chanting slogans saying Mr Blair should be ashamed of himself, the 20 people who took part in the protest promised that this was just the beginning of a huge protest against benefit cuts. A few of them eased themselves from their wheelchairs and rolled in the paint. Others who handcuffed themselves to the gates vowed that although they had always voted Labour, they would never do so again. Police, who halted traffic in Whitehall for a few minutes, used bolt cutters to remove them. Mr Blair was not at Downing Street during the protest. He was touring a factory in his constituency of Sedgefield, County Durham.

Rachel Hurst, chairwoman of the lobby group Rights Now, said: "It is frightening that following the weekend leaks. Mr Blair has not denied the cuts are going to happen. I have people on the telephone to me who are in tears and threatening suicide."

Susanne Bull, 27, a charity worker who has spina bifida, said: "Without my mobility allowance I would be trapped in my house and have to claim all the benefits, costing the Government much more."

Kevin Donnellon, 35, from Liverpool, a thalidomide victim, said: "I feel the Government is picking on us as soft targets, but we are not going to give up without a huge fight."

Conrad Russell, page 16

"Is that nose natural, Rudolph, or is it red paint?"

Spurs welcome back Klinsmann

Jurgen Klinsmann, who left Tottenham Hotspur in acrimonious circumstances 2½ years ago, yesterday returned from the Italian club Sampdoria on a loan deal. Tottenham are languishing third from bottom of the Premiership, with only five wins from 19 games so far this season........Page 40

Delia's stake

Delia Smith, the cookery writer, and her husband Michael Wynn Jones, the publisher, have bought the majority shareholding in Norwich City football club..........Page 5

TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS....20, 40
LETTERS 17
OBITUARIES 19
LIBBY PURVES 16
ARTS 28,29
CHESS & BRIDGE....33
COURT & SOCIAL.....18
SPORT 33-38,40
BODY AND MIND....14
LAW 31

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52

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Beef farmers urged to quit after £85m emergency deal

By Andrew Pierce and Michael Hornsby

THE Government paved the way yesterday for many beef farmers to leave the land in a radical restructuring of the industry as it announced a one-off £85 million emergency package.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who confirmed that there would be a year-long inquiry into the BSE crisis, emphasised that a drastic reduction in the size of the business was essential and said farmers should prepare for root and branch restructuring.

The minister served notice on beef farmers that the days of heavy government subsidies were over. The new priority was to reduce the size of the industry by luring farmers off the land through measures such as retirement schemes partly funded by the European Union.

He said that last year, £2 billion had been paid to the beef industry and a further £1.4 billion was being spent in the current financial year before the £85 million was taken into account.

"These are very large sums indeed. They cannot be maintained indefinitely," he said. Referring to the £85 million, he said: "I must emphasise that these payments are exceptional and one-off."

Dr Cunningham said the long-awaited inquiry would be chaired by Lord Justice Phillips and take a year. It will encompass Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE, which has cost the lives of more than 20 people. The Tories, who promised to co-operate with the investigation, said it was a gift to other EU states, who did not want the ban on British beef lifted.

While the National Farmers' Union welcomed the £85 million as a "lifeline" for hard-pressed beef farmers, Dr Cunningham said they had to face a new reality: there was an oversupply of beef throughout Europe and a long term decline in consumption. Substantial restructuring was required. It had to begin immediately.

"In the interests of consumers, taxpayers, the environment, and not least, the farmers themselves, we must reform the beef industry so that it becomes economically and environmentally sustainable. Our long-term aim should be to reduce the scale of subsidy to producers."

Ministers were planning early consultations with the farming industry to achieve the reduction. They would explore whether the EU's early retirement scheme and other structural measures could play a part.

Dr Cunningham said that the £85 million, which the Tories dismissed as "Scrooge-like", included £60 million from the EU to offset the effects of sterling revaluations and poor sales. Most of the benefit would go to some 90,000 hill farmers who have been hardest hit. The remain-

Continued on page 2, col 4

Al Fayed nearer to British citizenship

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

MOHAMED AL FAYED, the chairman of Harrods, was hopeful last night of achieving his ambition of becoming a British citizen after the Government said his application would be reconsidered.

Jack Straw told MPs that the Government was abandoning its challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling that the Conservative Government had unlawfully rejected citizenship applications by Mr Al Fayed and Ali Fayed, his brother. The Home Secretary told MPs in a written Commons answer that he would now consider the Egyptian-born brothers' requests for naturalisation "on their merits". He also said that in future all applicants for citizenship would be told the reasons for their refusal if they were rejected. In 1996, about 43,000 people were given citizenship and 5,000 were rejected.

Mr Al Fayed hopes that he is on the verge of winning his long struggle to get British citizenship. He said that he welcomed Mr Straw's announcement and was confident that his claim and his brother's would get a fair hearing. "I love this country and I am confident that the Home Secretary will consider our citizenship applications with fairness," Mr Al Fayed said in a statement issued from his Harrods store in Knightsbridge. He added: "I am grateful to him and I am sure many other people will feel the same."

He said that Mr Straw's announcement was important for very many people who had applications for naturalisation rejected but who were not given reasons for the rejection.

Home Office sources said that it would be months rather than weeks before Mr Straw reached a decision on the applications.

Mr Al Fayed's anger at his failure to gain citizenship under the Conservatives fuelled his feud with the Tory Party and culminated in the cash-for-questions affair.

Man in the News, page 2

Retired miners face cut in free coal allowance

By Paul Wilkinson

THOUSANDS of retired miners and their widows face a cut in the amount of free coal they are entitled to receive, breaking a promise made to them at the time of privatisation.

About 200,000 people receive the benefit, worth up to £500 a year, which was negotiated as part of pay settlements many years ago. Working miners receive up to five tonnes, others receive around three tonnes.

The allocation is based on the price of top-quality British coal, but the Government has said it wants to change that to less expensive coal, much of which is imported from Korea and China. For those who cannot obtain the cheaper coal it will mean less fuel. Peter McNestry, the national secretary of Nacods, the pit deputies union, believes a recalculation could cost pensioners and widows up to £150 a year.

The move is expected to spark a fresh confrontation between miners and the Government when it is discussed by both sides at the Department of Trade and Industry next month. It could also lead to a court challenge on the legality of breaking the pledge given by Tim Eggar, the minister responsible for the coal industry in the last Government.

The DTI has told miners' leaders that coal entitlements are to be "rebalanced" to keep in line with European law. John Battle, the Energy Minister, said that there was "an urgent need" to have new arrangements in place by April.

Mr McNestry said: "This will hit people very hard. Some old people depend on it to get through the winter. There is a perception that this is free coal. It isn't. Miners gave up pay increases to get this benefit."

He said Mr Eggar, the Conservative Energy Minister, had given a pledge that the Government would safeguard the concessionary fuel entitlements of British Coal.

Pat Carragher, the general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, said: "Thus is clearly an attempt to save money despite an agreement with the last Government."

Scargill disqualified, page 6

A victory for gloom over comfort and joy

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

IT WOULD take (to misquote Dr Johnson) a surgical operation to get tidings of comfort and joy into the understanding of a Member of Parliament. MPs gathered yesterday for their last day's proceedings before Christmas, to question the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and to remind each other, and Britain, what a wicked old world this is.

The closest anyone came to seasonal jollity was when Bob Laxton (Lab, Derby N) presented Madam Speaker with a single, rather *manky*-looking, Christmas stocking. It was empty. *Apparently it* had come from his constituents, *David and Mary*, in Derby. Mr Laxton held up *this* questionable offering, dangling limply from one hand, as Betty Boothroyd did her best to fix her features into that "just what I always wanted" expression.

Invited to join this first gesture of new Labour's Giving Age, the *pleasantly* understated junior minister Alun Michael looked *doubt*ful and glanced nervously at Miss Boothroyd. "*As there* is only one stocking, Madam Speaker, and as *it is empty*, I assume it is to be filled by *Father Christmas, and not* by Madam Speaker's leg . . ." He *trailed* off.

Miss Boothroyd looked tolerant, but faintly unamused. It is really not done to mention Madam Speaker's legs, either of them, in the chamber. The only part of Madam Speaker we may *mention with impunity* is her eye, which members strive *assiduously* to catch.

The House moved to Ques*tion 3, which seemed to* promise more. Sir Teddy Taylor (C, *Rochford* and Southend E) wanted to know about licensing hours.

Assuming that Sir Teddy's seasonal wish was to add to the national stock of jollity, George Howarth, a Home Office junior minister, answered as though anticipating a request for opening hours to be relaxed. Mr Howarth may have misread *his own official portfolio title* — "*deregulation, drugs*" — missed out the comma, and thought he was supposed to *deregulate drugs. He said* there was a case for longer *hours for pubs but it must* be balanced by the needs of neighbours.

Sir Teddy, of course, is an anti-European of the foam-flecked-lips tendency. Generous licensing hours are a continental phenomenon. *Ergo* (or, as Sir Teddy would not have it, *donc*) . . . well, you can guess. He lashed out at lax opening hours. There was "huge concern" *that* they might be extended. Why *didn't ministers concentrate* on advertising "the dangers of *alcohol*"? *Howarth scuttled* for cover and agreed.

Ian Cawsey (Lab, Brigg & Goole) wanted to ask about "*staggering*". *To giggles, he* explained he meant staggering in the temporaneous sense: staggering hours, for *instance*, of *nightclubs*. We looked up at Mr Cawsey, momentarily hopeful that this might be an MP with a sense of fun. But no. "I must point out," he told the chair, "that I have *no* personal interest in the nightclubs industry. Those days are long gone."

Our last hope of merriment died when Peter Brooke (C, Cities of London & Westmin*ster*), *usually a jovial* soul, issued a gloomy complaint about *relaxed drinking* hours in Central London, which he *said would spoil* the metropolis for residents.

MPs went on to discuss crime, murder, road accidents, corruption, electronic tagging and identity cards. As this sketch departed the joyless scene for its own Christmas break, the House was awaiting the arrival of a statement on mad cow disease, held up by computer failure. Our much-vaunted Year of Change, which had begun with statements from ministers on the continuing problems of BSE, ended in the same way. *Plus ça change*, if Sir Teddy will forgive me.

Hague on video to break with the past

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE has delivered his Christmas broadcast to the Tory faithful with a promise of the biggest shakeup of the party in more than 100 years.

The Tory leader, who was filmed standing next to a Christmas tree at Conservative Central Office, talked for three-and-a-half minutes with*out a script to announce the* largest public consultation exercise the party has undertaken. The film, complete with a copy of his only party political broadcast since he became Tory leader, has been sent to every Tory association. It has been dubbed William's Christmas Cracker at Conservative Central Office.

The three-month Listening to Britain campaign, which *has echoes of a previous* Labour exercise, will be conducted in town halls, community centres, and village halls. It will be led by members of the Shadow Cabinet. In his broadcast Mr Hague promises that the Tories will listen and not lecture, and put right what people thought was wrong with the party.

In a break with the traditional written Christmas *message of Tory leaders* Mr Hague recorded his video address shortly before his wedding. In it he said: "In the new year we are going to launch Listening to Britain: the biggest exercise we have ever mounted in making sure that our MPs are listening to, and in touch with, the people of this country."

The exercise is in response to the admission by the Tory leadership that the party had become woefully out of touch with ordinary voters at the last election. They will consult with doctors, nurses, teachers and other organisations which felt alienated after 18 years of Tory rule. "We understand why we lost. People thought we had become arrogant, that we had become sleazy, that we did not listen, and that we were out of touch. So we have to put those things right," Mr Hague added.

He said that in 1998 they would complete the biggest reorganisation of the party since Benjamin Disraeli. "We *are going to make it a much* more attractive proposition to join the Conservative Party. We are going to involve the members much more in our party. We are going to give them a vote in the affairs of our party," he said.

The Labour leadership under Neil Kinnock staged the "Labour Listens" campaign *after the Thatcher landslide* election victory in 1987. The *Tories deny that they have* copied Labour.

They maintained that they are anxious to consult the public widely as Peter Lilley, the Shadow chancellor, begins the task of reviewing every policy pledge and commitment. It is a move which also has echoes of Tony Blair who dumped policies which he feared could alienate voters in Middle England.

The consultation will involve pressure groups and community *organisations*. "We will talk to party activists as well. But we are determined to reach out," said a Tory official.

☐ Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster City Council, should be stripped of her title, the Com*mons was told yesterday as* Tories were urged to condemn *her for her part in the* "homes for votes" affair. No Conservatives rose at question time either to condemn or defend the Tesco heiress who was confirmed by the High Court on Friday of being guilty of "wilful misconduct".

ASHLEY COOMBES

Gordon Brown yesterday: "The welfare state in recent years has absorbed more cash but not relieved poverty"

Brown justifies reforms

Continued from page 1

those who need it most." He added: "There will be no backing down from the *need to modernise* our *welfare state. We* will not be diverted from the need to make *the reforms that are necessary. For 20* years inequalities and poverty have worsened in our society while social security resources grew."

The test of Labour's reforms would be whether there was more opportunity and less poverty in the years to come. But the review, he said, started not from some cuts-driven agenda but from the "hard *truths" of the failure of the welfare state in* recent years as it had absorbed more *money but not relieved poverty*.

His general message was unbending. For millions of people the welfare state was failing: 3.5 million households containing people of working age had no one earning a wage: three million children were being brought up in workless households. It was hardly surprising that child poverty had risen dramatically. "The welfare state is failing millions of people who depend upon it and at the same time millions who contribute towards it."

Labour would not realise the 1945 Beveridge principles — opportunity and security for all — *without making major* reforms that tackled the causes of poverty.

It was pressing ahead with the welfare-to-work programme to enable those who could work to have work. "We are moving ahead with reforms that will make work pay. We will not be diverted from our *determination* to ensure that we have a better system to reward work through the *tax and benefit system so that we move* from a society where large numbers of people believe they are better off out of work, even though they are in poverty, to a system where people are better off in work". But the Government was also determined that all those who were in need an incapable of work were properly provided for. Mr Brown said that he had insisted that all areas of public expenditure were examined to ensure that where public resources were provided they went to those who needed them most.

Asked whether the process had not got off to a dreadful start because of the lone *parent* defeat and reports of Cabinet divisions, Mr Brown said: "It will take *some* people time to get used to the idea that defending the status quo is not the best way forward." Did he believe there was a will in the party and the Cabinet for change after the Government's recent difficulties? "*Indeed I do*," he replied. "People are coming to understand that the *dividing line between doing nothing and* betrayal is outdated."

Mr Brown tried to play down the Blunkett letter. "David has made absolutely clear he is 100 per cent behind the comprehensive review led by Tony Blair."

Letters, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former policewoman sues over child care

A former policewoman is sueing Tayside Police for compensation, claiming she was forced to quit her job because senior officers refused to acknowledge her responsibilities as a mother. Shirley Anderson, 31, alleges that male police officers do not face the same problems as their female counterparts because they are not recognised as the main child-carer in the family. She told an industrial tribunal in Dundee that her problems started *last* December when she disobeyed an order which would have meant there was no one to look after her year-old daughter.

Sun-seekers fly out

Holidaymakers in search of December sunshine flew out yesterday, as a rainy Christmas *was forecast and the* bookmakers William Hill lengthened the odds of a white Christmas *to 10-1. Gatwick reported its busiest day of the* winter. Over the next two weeks some 900,000 people are *expected to take winter holidays*, the two most popular destinations being Tenerife and the Costa del Sol in the *south of Spain*.

Forecast, page 20

Burglars' lonely victim

An 80-year-old widower who died after a burglary at his home may have been unconcious for up to five days on his kitchen floor before being discovered by a neighbour last Saturday. Stephen Clayton, who lived alone on the Bransholme council estate in Hull, *suffered a stroke* which police believe may have been caused by the shock of either *discovering* the break-in or possibly confronting the burglars in his house.

Lockerbie trial ruling

Libya was under pressure last night to guarantee the appearance in court of two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing after a United Nations report concluded that they would receive a fair trial under Scottish law. The Crown Office in Edinburgh said: "Libya should now stop *prevaricating and secure the appearance* of the accused for trial." Monday was the ninth anniversary of the date on which 270 people died when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded.

Doubts of the Kirk

A survey by *The Scotsman* conducted last week found that 35 per cent of 150 Church of Scotland ministers questioned doubted the immaculate conception and virgin birth. All the ministers answered "Yes" when asked whether they believed *Jesus* was God come to earth. But a third answered "No" or "Don't know" *to questions on* whether *God's Holy Spirit was responsible for the conception and* whether Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born.

Water company praised

A water authority at the centre of a Government inquiry into how 54,000 people in the north of Glasgow were left without clean water for days, has been shortlisted for a quality award. West of Scotland Water was named as one of 19 organisations to be considered for a Convention of Scottish Local Authorities' award. The *Labour MP* for Clydebank, Tony Worthington, said: "Surely they can have no chance in winning any award after their performance".

Hooligans lose appeal

A French appeal court confirmed sentences of eight months' imprisonment, with four months suspended, against three British football fans convicted of attacking a man in a Strasbourg street after the Strasbourg-Liverpool match that Liverpool lost 3-0. Matthew Godden, 21, a shop assistant, James Kerr, a sports shop manager, and Paul Roach, a roofer, have been in prison since October 22, the day after the match.

Season of inefficiency

***Heavy drinking before Christmas is taking its toll* on the economy, according to a report. Almost two thirds of the 140 firms surveyed by the London Chamber of Commerce reported productivity losses because employees were overindulging. Illness, lack of concentration and impaired powers of judgment were all cited as factors undermining performance, said Simon Sperryn, the chamber's chief executive.**

Neil Kinnock

In a leading article on party funding (November 16) we referred to *Neil Kinnock*, as Leader of the Opposition, finding "himself in Robert Maxwell's debt to his discomfort". It was not *meant to suggest that* either Mr Kinnock or his private office, as opposed to the Labour Party, received any financial donations *from Mr Maxwell*, and we regret any misunderstanding.

SAFETY NOTICE

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Beef farm cuts

Continued from page 1

ing £25 million, 25 per cent *funded* by the EU, would come in the form of increased hill *livestock compensatory* allowances for 1998. Farmers estimate the package is worth an average of £800 a year to an average lowland suckler cow producer and £1,400 to a hill farmer with 38 cows.

Dr Cunningham *said that* the inquiry into the "national *human tragedy" of BSE was* essential. BSE had "literally been a disaster". He said the Government was not interested in using the inquiry as a political point-scoring exercise.

Lord Justice Phillips and his team, the make-up of which will be announced in the next few days, will be asked to report on the effectiveness of the Government's response and to report by the end of December next year.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour prime minister. *Baroness Thatcher* and John Major may be called to give *evidence. Tony Blair has* written to William Hague, Lord Callaghan, *Lady* Thatcher and John Major to ask them to release *any necessary* papers. Ministers would answer to the House after the inquiry's report.

The Tories attacked the announcements, which Michael Jack, the shadow agriculture spokesman, said was a victory for the Treasury. "You have failed British agriculture," he told Dr Cunningham.

Farmers last night promised *their full support for the* BSE inquiry, despite misgivings about the wisdom of holding it now. They said the £85 million package would bring "much-needed relief".

But they said the assistance fell far short of what was needed, and are to hold a rally *in London in mid-January*. They will press the Government for the full £980 million to which they say they are entitled as compensation for the strong pound.

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, said the inquiry would have his "full co-operation", but voiced concern that it might offer the European Union a further excuse to postpone lifting the ban on British beef. "The progress already made in the European arena must not be delayed," he said.

He said the NFU would welcome the opportunity to discuss a restructuring of the beef *industry, and an early* retirement scheme for farmers, but warned *Dr Cunningham* that current EU schemes were *insufficiently* funded. Farmers in the South West, *one of the regions* worst hit by the beef crisis, dismissed the aid package as inadequate and predicted more farmers' protests in the New Year.

Would-be Briton who is still cold-shouldered

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MAN IN THE NEWS

Al Fayed: the outsider

HE OWNS Harrods, the Ritz in Paris, the Duke of Windsor's former home in Paris and *through* his sponsorship of the Royal Windsor Horse *Show has* contact with the Queen.

But despite Mohamed Al Fayed's avid courtship of the Establishment, he looked like being forever the outsider.

But Jack Straw's announcement that he is to reconsider citizenship applications of Mr Al Fayed and his brother Ali provides hope that they may both win their struggle to be British.

It provides some solace for Mr Al Fayed at the end of four *traumatic months* after the deaths of his son, Dodi and *Diana, Princess of Wales*.

His reaction in the after*math of that tragedy provides* an example of why he is viewed with such *suspicion* and hostility. On the eve of the Princess's funeral it was disclosed that he had passed her last words to a member of her family and that he had requested that a silver plaque inscribed with a poem written for the Princess be placed in her coffin.

Controversy has surrounded Mr Al Fayed, 64, ever since his purchase of Harrods in 1985. Tiny Rowland had sold his stake in House of Fraser, then owners of Harrods, wrongly assuming the Fayed's *did* not possess the financial resources to bid for the whole *group*.

Mr Rowland's case was that *Mohamed Al Fayed* had made up his past and lied about his wealth. *Instead* of being the son of a distinguished Egyptian family, *he was the* son of a schoolteacher who *had used* the Sultan of Brunei's money to purchase the House of Fraser.

In 1987, the Department of Trade and Industry ordered an inquiry into his acquisition of *the House of* Fraser. Three years later the DTI report was published. It *accused* the brothers of lying to the City, press, DTI and *their* own advisers about their origins, their wealth, their *business* interests and their resources.

Mr Al Fayed has lived in this country for 30 years, pays £3 million taxes a year, nurtures and restores British institutions, has donated huge amounts of cash to charities that care for children, courted MPs in Parliament and yet remains a foreigner in the land he professes to love.

He then sought revenge and won in spectacular fashion in the cash for questions affair. *His* allegations that he paid thousands of pounds stuffed *in plain* brown envelopes to Tory MPs to ask questions on *his behalf* led to the downfall of former ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith.

Even if Mr Al Fayed eventually wins *his much-sought* British citizenship, it is unlikely that he will ever be *accepted* by the Establishment.

هكذا من الأصل

Teenage bully says 'I still love my parents'

By Peter Foster

A *VIOLENT* teenager whose parents took court action to ban him from the family home after he threatened them was preparing to spend Christmas alone in a homeless shelter last night.

Robert Foraker, 19, is forbidden by a court order from contacting his mother and father who called in police after he threatened to attack them last month. After he was released from custody yesterday he said: "I love them both very much, but I just can't live with them."

He had just sentenced to six months' probation by magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, for causing criminal damage and threatening violence against his father. After the hearing he stood on a roundabout two miles from his parents house, hitching a lift to Bury St Edmunds where he plans to spend Christmas.

The outburst last month in which Foraker smashed a window, a lavatory and a mobile phone was the last straw for his parents Robert and Margaret. At an earlier hearing magistrates were told how Foraker's violent outbursts against his parents had escalated out of control. He was arrested on November 12 and later appeared before magistrates on eight charges of harassment and one of criminal damage to property worth more than £300.

The court heard how Foraker had constantly bullied and threatened his parents, with two incidents in October and and five more in November. He was also charged with breaching a court order relating to an earlier assault on his father.

In June this year he was sentenced to two years' probation for common assault. Two months later, in August, he was given one day's detention for theft and failing to answer bail, the court heard.

After the hearing Foraker, an only child, admitted he had behaved badly, claiming that he had become "so frustrated" when living at home. His father, an American who works as an administrative officer at Mildenhall air base, said after his son's conviction earlier this month that he had no option but to call the police.

"What he has done is wrong, but I don't want him to go to prison any more than I would anyone else's son," he added.

Foraker, who says he has been at odds with his parents since he first began taking drugs at the age of 11 is not hopeful of an early reconciliation. "My parents are good people and they are good to me. I love them both very much, mum and dad, but I just can't live with them," he said.

Mr and Mrs Foraker live in the village of Tuddenham-St-Mary which sits in between the cluster of RAF bases where they both work. According to their son, they met in the 1960s when Mr Foraker, now a retired master sergeant in the US Air Force, was stationed in Britain. The family have lived in England since moving from America when their son was about four years old. They now live in a smart flint-exterior cottage with a sizable back garden.

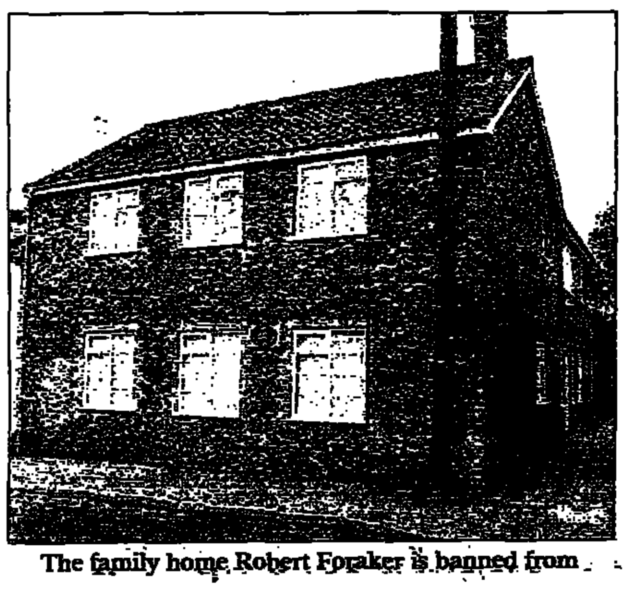
After his release yesterday the slim teenager, who spent more than five weeks in Norwich jail on remand, could not say exactly how, why or when his relationship with his parents had broken down.

"I suppose I've been in trouble ever since I started taking drugs when I was 11. But I don't do any of that now."

Foraker, who is well spoken and occasionally apologises unnecessarily for his manners, identified a turning point after taking an overdose 2½ years ago and ending up in hospital. "Things have never been the same since. I have just a different attitude to everything," he said. Since then Foraker said he had fought endlessly with his parents. The five weeks he spent in prison were, he said, "terrible".

During the brief hearing yesterday, George Peacock, his solicitor, said both sides had cause to regret the current impasse. "His parents are concerned for his wellbeing and his future and want him to get some help."

Mr Foraker, who was not in court yesterday, said the whole "episode" with his son had become "a nightmare".



The family home Robert Foraker is banned from

Robert Foraker leaves court yesterday after being sentenced to further probation

Bomber adds real hazard to golfers' 14th green

By Paul Wilkinson

THE par-four 14th at Skipton Golf Club has more hazards than most. Normally, bunkers and the Ellerbeck stream close to the green on the 343-yard hole are the only obstacles members have to face, but recently players have had to face the prospect of an unknown bomber cratering the green.

In the past year the 14th has been damaged more than ten times with a device similar to warning detonators used on the railway. Each blast leaves a deep divot, which needs careful refilling, seeding and rolling.

Gary Potter, the course manager at the 103-year-old North Yorkshire club, said: "Whether it's an ex-member who has been dismissed or someone who has been refused membership, I don't know. Whatever they use, it blows a hole about six inches deep into our green and there is always grass everywhere. If something is not done, we're worried that the situation could get worse with more greens being targeted.

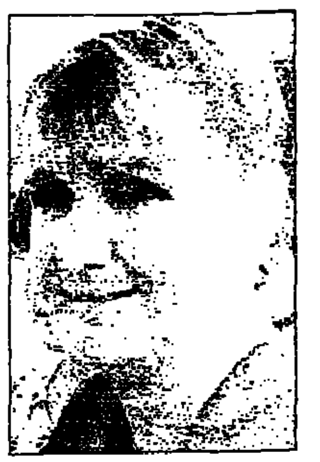
"We always find traces of a detonator-type device left lying around, along with tapers. It is really baffling. If the situation continues then the club will be looking into the possibility of installing cameras.

"The first incident was in May and then there were two or three in June and another three in July and just one in August. Then we had nothing until the other week. We went out on to the 14th and there was the big hole.

"We wondered if it was a disgruntled employee or someone fed up with getting high scores on the 14th, but we think it's more likely to be young lads."

Inspector Chris Chelton of Skipton police admitted they were baffled. Police agree youngsters are probably responsible, but they accept the bomber could be someone with a grudge.

The incident does have a silver lining, however. Mr Potter said: "It has cured the mole problem down there. They must be terrified."



Helen Proffit

Murder fears grow after fire suicide

By Simon de Bruxelles

FEARS are growing for a young mother whose boyfriend blew himself up in an apparent suicide.

Helen Proffit, 29, a social worker, disappeared a week ago, after going to a Christmas dance with Mark Coldrick, whose body was found dead beside his burnt-out car in a quarry two days later. When police went to his home in Newport, Gwent, they found the house empty and the couple's bedroom heavily blood-stained.

A search has failed to find any trace of Mrs Proffit, a divorced mother of two who was a popular youth worker in Newport. Police divers are searching a pool at Ifton Quarry, near Caldicot, where Mr Coldrick killed himself with a petrol bomb.

Detectives fear Mrs Proffit might have died in a violent row after they returned home last Tuesday night. They believe Mr Coldrick, 30, an aircraft engineer, might have disposed of her body at the quarry before returning to the same spot to take his own life.

Mr Coldrick left his wife, also called Helen, and their two-year-old son to move in with his lover ten weeks ago. Neighbours say the pair had a volatile relationship.

Detective Superintendent Des James said: "There was a massive amount of blood in the rear bedroom, on the walls and on the furniture, which suggests that someone was violently injured. If any of their friends or relatives know anything we want them to come forward."

Dismissed university chief to sue

By Paul Wilkinson

A FORMER university principal who resigned after a number of his academic qualifications were discovered to be false yesterday announced that he is to sue for unfair dismissal.

The Rev Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, who resigned last January from St Chad's College in Durham after discrepancies were disclosed in his published list of academic qualifications, is going to an industrial tribunal over his belief that he was forced out by a whispering campaign. His wife, Janet, who was employed as the university's director of development, has also lodged a claim with the tribunal.

However, the college, an independent foundation within the university, controlled by the Church of England, has filed a counter-claim, demanding the return of money allegedly spent without authority by Dr Arnold during his brief tenure of the principal's post.

Dr Arnold, 44, became instantly controversial on his appointment in 1994 to the post when a number of senior staff left soon after his arrival.

Let paralysed bowler settle here, says MP

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

AN MP is backing the attempt of Winston Davis, the former West Indies cricketer, to be readmitted to Britain after he became paralysed from the neck down when he fell from a mango tree.

David Lock, the Labour MP for Wyre Forest, is asking the Government to waive rules which could prevent Mr Davis, 39, who played professional cricket here for 15 years, from living in Bewdley, near Worcester, with his British wife, Patricia, 38, and their five-year-old daughter, Jessica. Mr Davis, who represented Glamorgan and Northamptonshire for nine seasons and played professional league cricket, has applied for entry at the British High Commission in New York.

This would usually be refused because Mr Davis would depend on support from the NHS. Since the accident on November 1, Davis has been in hospital, in St Vincent and then in Miami, where his medical bills are nearly £400,000.

The former fast-bowler, who played in 15 Tests and 35 one-day internationals in the all-conquering West Indies teams of the 1980s, fell from the tree when he was carrying out voluntary land-clearing work on a site where a church is being built in Villa, the village in St Vincent where he was born. Mr Davis had climbed into the tree to saw off some branches when he was struck by a falling branch.

He had been planning to leave his with a shipping company next spring, so that he could live in Britain with his wife, who is a bank clerk. Mr Lock said: "Winston is a quadraplegic and it raises difficult policy decisions because he is somebody who, in the short term, will make demands on the NHS. But I am sure that, in the long term, he will be a net contributor to UK society.

"Winston spent 15 years providing great entertainment and paying tax and national insurance. If he is not allowed treatment here, he will not get it anywhere and the family will never be together. Such treatment does not exist in the Caribbean, and it's unbelievably expensive in America."

His wife said: "Doctors have told me it's the type of injury suffered by Christopher Reeve [the actor who played Superman]. The last couple of weeks his spirits have gone a little. But he is a positive person. On his good days Winston says 'I'm going to walk out of this hospital'; this is the spirit I want him to keep."

She hopes that he will be able to resume his career as a cricket commentator.

Winston Davis and his daughter, Jessica

Cricket, page 37

OED fights the negaholics

Philip Delves Broughton on words that may not pass the test of time

THE English language is under siege. At its gates are marketing men brandishing new words and phrases including "adultescent", "fluffragette", "negaholic" and "virtual desking".

Fortunately, the compilers of the Oxford English Dictionary, who have catalogued the year's new words and phrases, reckon that few of them will stand the test of time.

As long as they are around, however, it may be worth knowing that an "adultescent" is someone between 35 and 45 addicted to youth culture, a "fluffragette" is a woman with pre-feminist role models, and a "negaholic" someone with a face like a week of rain and an attitude to match. "Virtual desking" describes those who use the Internet to work from home.

A "shruggist" is someone who looks at a computer and thinks "life's too short", rather like an "Internot". The computer-addicted teenager is deemed to be a "screenager".

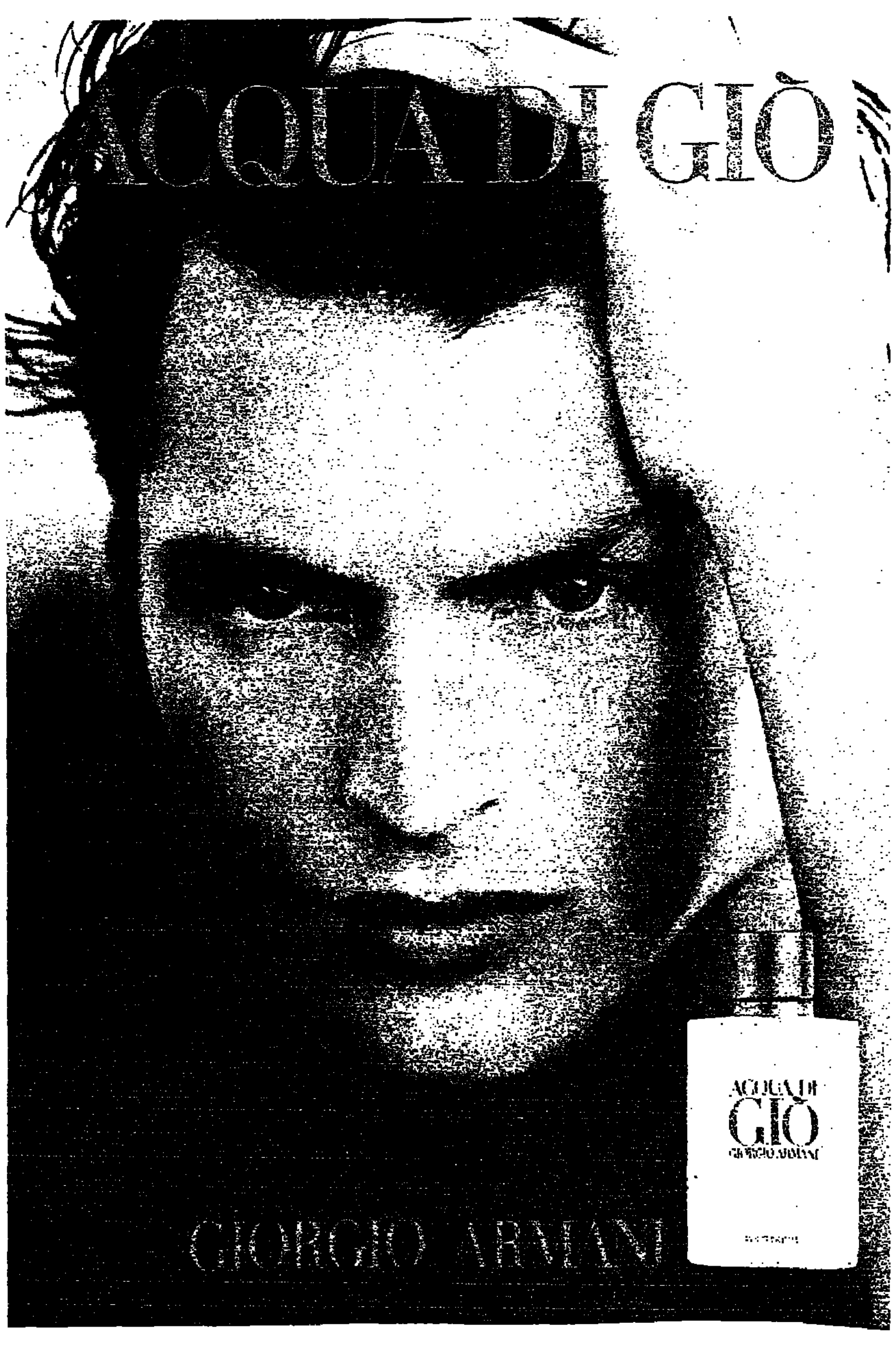
The Labour Party has much to answer for. The terms "on message" and "off message", to describe whether or not someone is toeing the party line, were popularised during the election, as was the word "prebuttal", denying an accusation before it is even made, though someone clearly forgot to fill in Geoffrey Robinson on its use.

Labour is also guilty of the politicisation of the words "new", as in "new Labour, new Britain", and "people's", as in the "people's Princess", and a "people's banquet" on the Queen's birthday.

Among the other new phrases of 1997, to "Gordon Brown" is to wear a lounge suit when more formal attire is requested. "Economy Class Syndrome" is the development of a blood clot on the back of the thigh from spending too much time in cheap aeroplane seats, and the "Sandwich Generation" are those who find themselves looking after ageing relatives and young children at the same time.

Michael Proffitt, of the OED, says: "We look to see which ones have endured the test of time and most do not. They have to show evidence of passing into the language more permanently. Many of them are short-term marketing expressions."

It would be a depressing day if scholars a hundred years on opened the dictionary, and between "teletransport" and "teletype" found the word "Teletubby".



Glitch in computer delays speech

By Andrew Pierce

THE long-awaited statement on BSE was delayed embarrassingly because of a computer failure in the private office of Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, suspended the sitting for 15 minutes because of the breakdown. It was thought to be the first time in parliamentary history that such an important statement was delayed because of a technical hitch.

By convention the Opposition front bench is given 15 minutes to study the text of an important statement with the exception of the Budget. But the only copy of the statement was contained in the Windows computer system in Dr Cunningham's office which collapsed at 3pm, making it impossible to comply with the usual practice.

Hill farmer in front line of the beef crisis

A whole British way of life is under threat as new subsidy cuts and the strong pound spell the end of the hill men, reports **Michael Hornsby**

HILL farmers are on the front line of the crisis in the beef industry and large tracts of the most beautiful upland regions of Britain would cease to be farmed if they were exposed to the full rigours of the marketplace.

Some 71,000 farmers in the hills, almost entirely reliant on the rearing of cattle and sheep, depend largely for their survival on subsidies provided by the Government and the European Union which Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday must eventually be scaled down.

Richard Barter, who keeps 116 Hereford-cross beef cows and 300 ewes on 297 acres near Bovey Tracey on the edge of Dartmoor, is a fairly typical victim of the Government's policies.

In his early forties, he runs the farm with his wife, Jane, who also has to look after their three young boys, aged five, eight and ten. When their last farm hand left in October, 1996, they decided not to replace him. Mr Barter said: "The one-off aid Dr Cunningham has announced will bring welcome short-term relief. We reckon it will mean an extra payment of £47 per cow, which will certainly ease the cash flow. But our long-term problems remain."

Mr Barter reckons his farm generated an income of about £15,000 last year, but this year that could fall to between £7,000 and £8,000, in line with a national decline in farm incomes of up to 47 per cent forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture. "My accountant has already told us that we will not have to pay any income tax this year because our earnings will be too low," he said. "There are lots worse off than me. At least I do not have an overdraft." He and his wife specialise in rearing steers to the age of about 20 months and then selling them on to other farmers. They sold their most recent batch of 10 steers four weeks ago, accepting a price that was £200 a head lower than similar animals fetched a year ago.

Mr Barter's problem, like many farming in what the bureaucrats call "less favoured areas", is that up to half his income, even in a good year, comes from subsidy rather than the price his produce fetches.

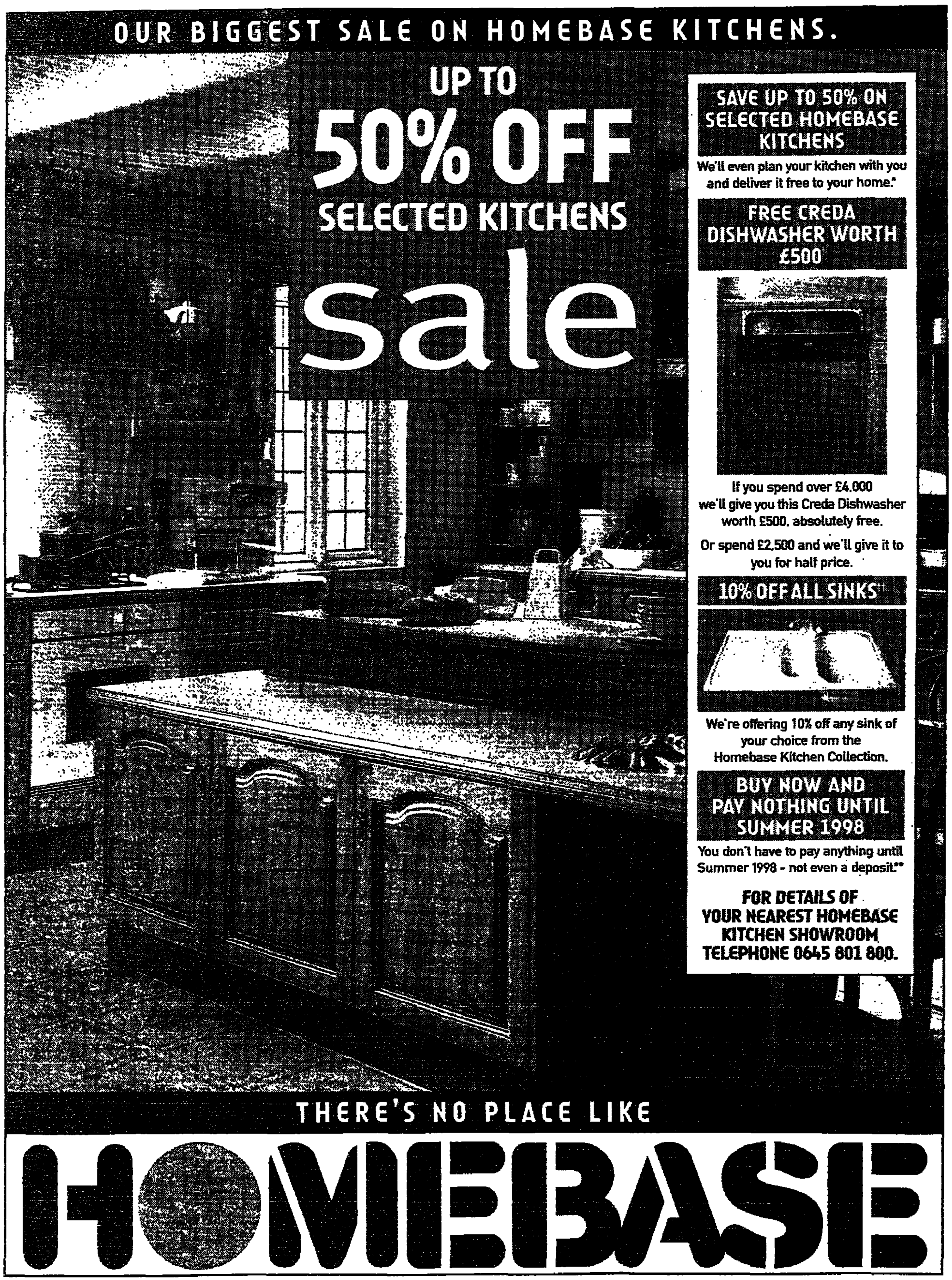
"If the subsidy went, there is no way we could survive, at least as full-time farmers. At best I might be able to hang on by taking a job outside farming and running the farm part-time." He and others like him are kept afloat by a whole range of payments.

There are suckler cow premiums (paid per cow), beef special premiums (paid on male calves), sheep annual premiums (paid per ewe) and hill livestock compensatory amounts, a special top-up available only to those in the hills. The strong pound not only makes making imported beef and lamb cheaper and more competitive, forcing down local prices.

It also, crucially, reduces the sterling value of EU subsidies, which are fixed in ecus, and have to be converted into national money.

Over the past two years, because of the strong pound, Mr Barter has seen the value of the suckler cow premium drop from £124 to about £114, although this will now be increased by the special one-off aid to about £160. The beef special premium has come down from £93 to about £84, and the sheep annual premium has nearly halved, from just over £21 in 1995 to £11.50.

Hill farmer Richard Barter, who says he may be forced to take an outside job



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Moderniser will bring a sure touch

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

WHATEVER the outcome of the inquiry into BSE announced yesterday by the Government, Lord Justice Phillips is likely to handle it with the same deftness of touch that won him plaudits for his handling of the Maxwell trial.

Mr Justice Phillips — by then nicknamed the "Rolls-Royce" judge — was promoted mid-way through the trial to the Court of Appeal.

Likeable and witty, Nicholas Phillips is a moderniser. He introduced a series of innovations to make proceedings in the Maxwell trial as manageable and comprehensible to jurors as possible. Despite the furore over the acquittals of the brothers, the judge was widely held to have created a blueprint for the way to run such trials in future. Richard Lissack, QC, one of the leading prosecuting counsel, said at the time: "He has been the single greatest influence on the trial. His conduct has been faultless." Mr Lissack singled out the judge's "temperament, his patience and attention to detail" coupled with his "fairness to everyone: counsel, defendants, witnesses, the jury, the press".

Lord Justice Phillips, who drew praise also for his handling of the Barlow Clowes trial in 1991, has long a "hands-on" style of judge who takes as grip of the proceedings — a role judges will be expected to adopt when the civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, are implemented. The judge broke new ground by introducing a new court day of 9.30am to 1.30pm, with afternoons reserved for legal argument. Jurors did not have to concentrate all day and were saved from having to keep going in and out of court while counsel discussed legal points in their absence.

He also provided the jury with a summary of his summing-up, and — as a new technology buff — ensured full use of the computer system in court. The defendants sat, American style, alongside their lawyers.

He attended Bryanston School and King's College, Cambridge, before national service in the Royal Navy. Once called to the Bar, in 1962, he built up a shipping and admiralty practice, taking silk in 1978. He became a judge in 1987.

Lord Justice Phillips: likeable and witty

BSE IN BRITAIN

■ **1985 — April:** Vet called to a farm in Kent to examine cow behaving oddly. Later recognised as probably first case of BSE.
■ **1986 — Nov:** Government scientists make first official diagnosis of BSE.
■ **1987 — June:** Ministers told about existence of BSE. Experiments to test transmissibility of disease to mice are started. **Oct:** *Veterinary Record* reports appearance of BSE in four cattle herds, the first public reference to the disease. **Dec:** Epidemiologists say cattle feed containing remains of sheep infected with scrapie most likely cause of BSE.
■ **1988 — April:** Working party set up under Professor Sir Richard Southwood of Oxford University to report to Government on BSE implications. **July:** Ban on feeding cattle or sheep with meat-and-bone meal derived from the same animals. **Aug:** Government orders slaughter and destruction of all cattle showing symptoms of BSE. Farmers compensated at 50 per cent of market value (later raised to 100 per cent).
■ **1989 — Feb:** Southwood report published. Says BSE risk to humans "remote" but cannot be ruled out. Estimates eventual number size of cattle deaths at between 17,000 and 25,000. **Dec:** Ban on consumption of brain, spinal cord and other specified offals introduced.
■ **1990 — Jan:** Offal ban extended to Scotland.
■ **1991 — Mar:** European Commission bans exports to the Continent of British cattle over six months old. **April:** European Commission bans export from Britain of specified offals. **May:** First case of spongiform encephalopathy reported in a cat. Pet food made from BSE-infected offal later confirmed as cause. **Sept:** Specified offals banned from all animal feed.
■ **1992:** Peak year for BSE in cattle, with 36,682 confirmed cases.
■ **1993 — July:** Total cattle deaths from BSE reach 100,000.
■ **1994 — Nov:** Thymus and intestines added to list of specified offals. All mammalian protein banned from cattle and sheep feed.
■ **1995:** First three humans deaths from new-variant CJD.
■ **1996 — March:** Government announces that "most likely explanation" for new-variant CJD was "exposure to BSE before the offal ban in 1989". Beef prices plummet. EU bans all British beef exports, a trade worth £520 million a year. Number of deaths from new-variant CJD reach 13 by end of year. **July:** Government announces stricter controls on slaughter of sheep after scientists report "theoretical risk" that BSE might have passed to sheep and be disguised as scrapie.
■ **1997 — May:** Incoming Labour Government says it hopes to ease beef export ban by less confrontational approach with rest of EU. Ban still in place at end of year. **Dec:** Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, bans beef on the bone after scientists find infectivity in nervous tissue in spinal columns of BSE-infected cattle and possibly also in bone marrow.

هكذا من الأصل

Girls complain after teachers go to strip show

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A CHRISTMAS outing by boarding school mistresses to see a male strip show has shaken the Victorian foundations of one of the country's leading girls' schools.

Some of the girls at £12,000-a-year Godolphin School in Salisbury have complained after hearing that a dozen staff had gone to see the *Chippendales*.

One pupil at the 270-year-old school, whose old girls include the novelist Jilly Cooper, said: "You can imagine the reaction if this was a boys' school, where housemasters went to a strip show. The parents won't like this at all, nor do the girls."

However, the old girls contacted by *The Times* did not appear too shocked. Delphine Duder, an 80-year-old committee member of the Old Godolphian Association, who attended the school from 1929-35, said it was quite wrong for girls to pry into staff affairs. She said: "We were all in awe of the staff, naturally, in those days one was. I still think that what they do has nothing to do with the girls."

Jacqui Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association, said the teachers were perfectly entitled to their celebration after the end of term. She said: "Everybody's been to see *The Full Monty*, haven't they? I would have thought it was pretty harmless stuff and it is just supposed to be a laugh. I don't think children should be encouraged to contact the media for this kind of thing. If the teachers had left the girls it would be a different matter, but once term has finished I think it is up to staff how they spend their leisure time."

Godolphin prides itself on an exemplary academic reputation and came top of the GCSE table in Wiltshire this year. The 430-pupil school — motto *Franc Ha Leal Eto Ge* (Frankness and Loyalty Be Yours) — was founded in 1726 and moved to its present Victorian and modern buildings in 1891. It is also well-regarded for the strength of its theatrical productions and recently opened a purpose-built performing arts centre.

Judy Nathan, the school's spokeswoman, dismissed complaints about the teachers' behaviour as "mischief-making". She said the outing was during the school holidays last Thursday and did not involve any of the pupils. There would be no disciplinary action against any of those involved.

Mrs Nathan added: "Twelve female members of staff attended the performance. It is a perfectly harmless show for anyone to go and see. It was a perfectly respectable evening. It took place during the holidays and in their own time."

Carl Leighton-Pope, who runs the Chippendales, said the show was aimed at all women and sometimes three generations, grandmother, mother and daughter, would be in the audience. The 20-strong troupe of singers and dancers who make up the Chippendales features eight strippers.

Mr Leighton-Pope added: "Nothing lewd happens at all, although there may be some scenes which would make a housemistress blush. It is all done in the best possible taste."

Asked whether the eight strippers actually did a "full monty", he replied: "It is a trick of the light."

A spokesman for the City Hall in Salisbury described the Chippendales' show as "good clean fun". It lasted two hours and 900 women and just one man made up the audience who paid £13.50 each for tickets.

He added: "The men stripped to their underwear and then the lights went out. It always goes down a storm. All the women were cheering and chanting as it went on. It was exotic dancing."

A Chippendale: "all in the best possible taste"

Delia Smith buys a slice of Norwich City

By Philip Delves Broughton

WHILE the rest of the country turns to her Christmas recipes, Delia Smith has given herself a non-culinary treat: a plump shareholding in Norwich City Football Club.

She and her husband, Michael Wynn Jones, a publisher, have bought 42 per cent of the shares in the club, reckoned to have cost about £700,000. No more queueing for season tickets for them.

The couple, who live near Stowmarket in Suffolk, became directors of Norwich City in November 1996 after they lent the club £1 million, the interest on which was to be used for special club projects.

Since then, Ms Smith, whose cookery books and various offshoots have made her one of the wealthiest women in the country, has introduced the players to high-carbohydrate and low-fat breakfasts before training and more of the same afterwards.

She has also provided them with recipes for baked tomato risotto, Irish tea bread, and carrot cake to make and eat at home. Her own diet surrounding matches is not so virtuous: fish and chips on Saturdays, McDonald's midweek.

"It is extremely exciting and gives us an awful lot of pleasure," said Ms Smith yesterday of her buy. "We are supporters and season ticket-holders and in the last year we have had a chance to see what happens behind the scenes. If you showed me a profit and balance sheet, I wouldn't now which way up to hold it — but I have other gifts."

It was Mr Wynn Jones, the editor of *Sainsbury's Magazine* and a supporter of the Canaries from the age of 11, who introduced Mrs Smith to Norwich City. Her football fever began with England's 1966 World Cup win, but support for Norwich gave her a more day-to-day focus. The couple have been regular visitors to Norwich games, both home and away for nearly 26 years.

They bought their shares from Geoffrey Watling, 84, but have no interest in ousting the present chairman, Barry Lockwood. "We are not going to go in with all guns blazing, and nothing like that is on the agenda," Mr Wynn Jones said. Their plan is to boost the club's annual revenues by £1 million through additional catering, sponsorship and commercial activities.

On the footballing side, there is delight. Mike Walker, the club manager, said: "It is a very pleasant surprise and stabilises the club. They have been successful in business and if they want to bring that success to the football club, it's got to be brilliant."

For Ms Smith, the purchase is more than a financial transaction. "I think everyone wants to give the talents they have," she says. "It is very nice when you reach middle age and you can go in another direction."

FINDLAY KEMBER

Delia Smith: a regular visitor to Norwich games

Family whose numbers came up

By Paul Whittaker

Against the odds: Helen Beard with her husband David and mother Sylvia, and children Harry and Emily

A FAMILY has beaten odds of a million to one with a sequence of birthdays. The birth of Emily on the 12th day of the 12th month at 12 minutes past 12 noon has completed a string of extraordinary coincidences for the Beard family of Gosport, Hampshire.

Emily's father, David, was born on the 4th day of the 4th month at 4.40pm, her mother, Helen, entered the world on the 10th of the 10th, her brother Harry on the 6th of the 6th, and her maternal grandmother, Sylvia, arrived on the 11th of the 11th.

The sequence has been rated a million-to-one chance by Ladbrokes. Mr Beard, a heating engineer, said: "Emily was supposed to be born at 10am. But there were complications so they *put the birth back*.

"When I rang my mum to tell her, she said I'd been born at 4.40. That's when we realised how weird it was."

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Scargill 'guilty of misconduct' over £800,000 cash transfer

By Mark Henderson

Scargill: he has begun action in High Court

ARTHUR SCARGILL is set to be disqualified as a trustee of two miners' welfare organisations after the Charity Commission yesterday found him guilty of misconduct over a £800,000 cash transfer.

The president of the National Union of Mineworkers will be removed as a trustee of the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Trust Fund and the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Convalescent Homes if he fails to respond adequately to the findings of a year-long investigation into a cash transfer between the two charities, which censured him and the NUM vice-president, Frank Cave.

Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were found to have moved the money from the trust fund to the convalescent homes during inquorate meetings and in breach of correct procedures for approving such grants. They are alleged to have pressed the transfer to prevent the money being used for miners' welfare projects run in conjunction with employers.

They have until the end of January to make representations to the commission to contest the findings, and have begun a High Court action against their proposed disqualification which will be heard in April.

The commission launched the inquiry in January after complaints from other trustees, thought to be British Coal appointments to the board, that Mr Scargill and Mr Cave had broken rules to force through the transfer. The NUM officials were suspended as trustees in June.

The commissioners said yesterday that, after the investigation, they were "satisfied that there has been misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the charities and that it was necessary or desirable to remove Mr Scargill and Mr Cave from their trusteeship".

The transfer prevented money from the miners' trust fund being used for welfare projects that are "partnership-funded" with employers under rules introduced after the privatisation of the coal industry in 1995. The NUM opposes partnership funding, which it says demands unfair contributions from miners and should be wholly funded by employers and the state. In May 1995, the trustees of the charities took a unanimous decision not to take part in the scheme in the "best interests" of Yorkshire miners, according to Mr Scargill.

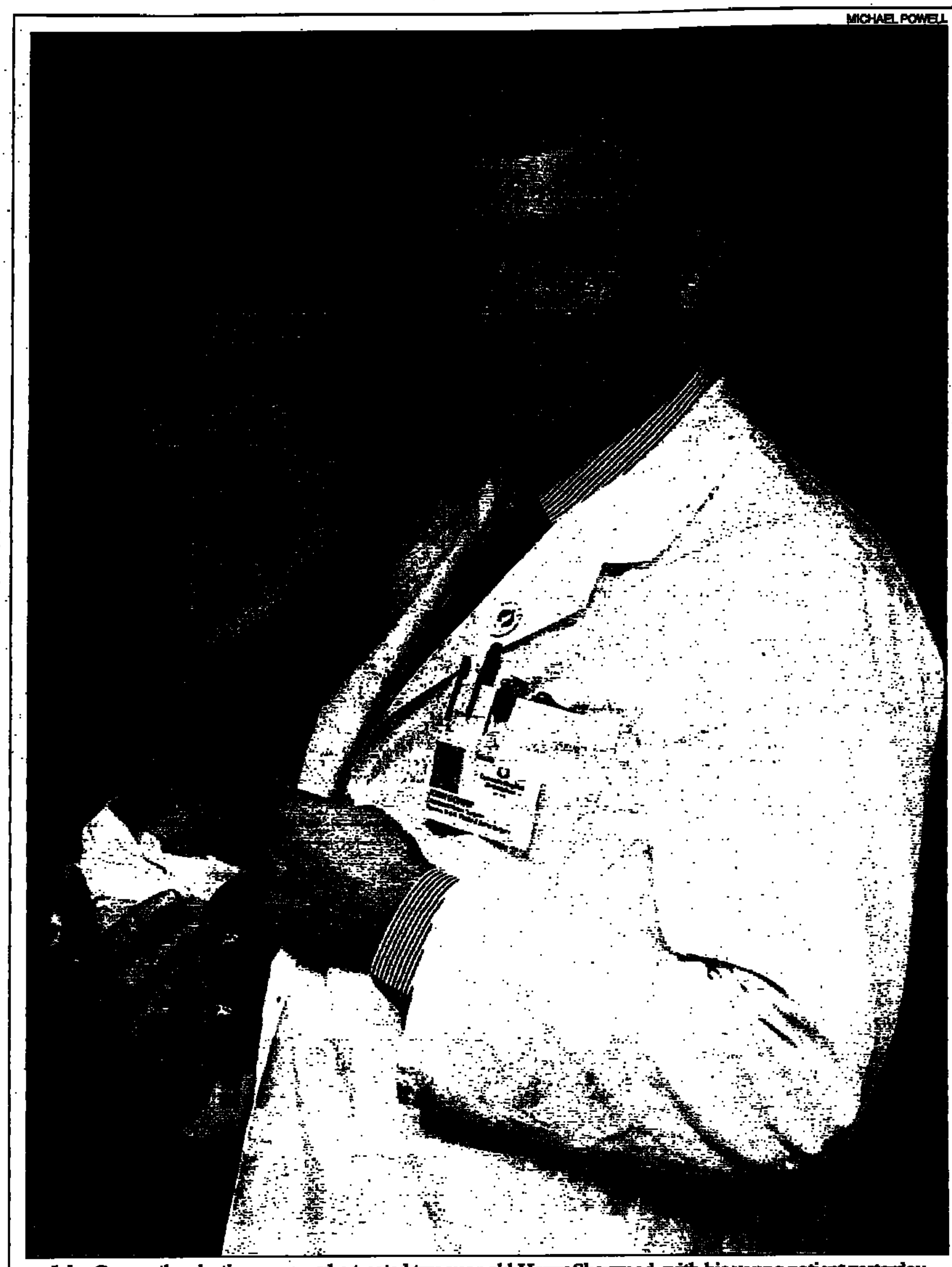
The trust fund was established in 1984 to "promote the health, social well-being and condition of living" of current and former miners. The convalescent homes charity, which runs two homes near Scarborough, was set up in 1966. Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were also criticised by the commission over one of the Scarborough homes, which had "improperly" refused places to former miners who had not continued to pay union dues after they were made redundant.

The commission did not suggest that Mr Scargill or Mr Cave had sought to benefit personally from the transfer, but found that they had taken decisions at meetings attended by too few trustees and had failed to follow procedures for approving such grants between charities.

The NUM said in a statement yesterday: "The national executive pledges full support for Arthur Scargill and condemns the outrageous decision to first suspend and now remove the NUM president as trustee."

Mr Scargill said yesterday: "The union's lawyers have issued court proceedings against the Charity Commissioners and demanded that both Frank Cave and I be reinstated as trustees."

MICHAEL POWELL



John Gowar, the plastic surgeon who treated two-year-old Harry Sherwood, with his young patient yesterday

Shark skin cure for the boy who fell on a fire

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A BOY of two, who was badly burnt after falling on to a gas fire, has a shark to thank for his restored skin.

His surgeon, John Gowar, of Birmingham Selly Oak Hospital, used an American material called Integra to repair the 31 per cent burns on Harry Sherwood's body. It is made from a mixture of calf tendon, a rich source of the protein collagen, and shark cartilage, which encourages the wounded tissue to grow again.

Mr Gowar has used the material before, as have other British surgeons, but he is especially pleased with the results of Harry's operation. He used £2,500 worth of the artificial skin, made in New Jersey, to repair burns on Harry's back, chest, arms and bottom.

Harry's mother, Donna, of Walsall, said: "I've been amazed how normal Harry's skin looks. It's just a little bit lumpy, but Mr Gowar expects that to settle down fairly quickly. He will still need to go back to hospital for dressings for quite a while yet, but at least he enjoys the train journeys."

Integra mimics skin with its two layers — an upper layer of silicone, which copies the epidermis, and a lower one, or dermis, made up of bovine collagen and shark cartilage. When laid on top of burnt tissue, the collagen is digested and a new layer of dermis produced.

After a couple of weeks the silicone layer is removed and a layer of the patient's own epidermis seeded on to the surface. This grows into a new skin with little scarring, if all goes well.

Defence ministers clear the Eurofighter for £40bn take-off

ALI JAREKJI/REUTERS

The Eurofighter on the ground: it is designed to beat rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind"

By Michael Evans

THE Eurofighter aircraft, designed to beat its rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind", cleared the final political hurdle yesterday when four defence ministers signed an agreement for the full production phase of the £40 billion programme.

After years of political wrangling, mainly between Germany and its three other partners, Britain, Italy and Spain, over price rises and the increasing sophistication of the multirole combat jet, the signing in Bonn will safeguard 80,000 jobs in Britain and provide the RAF with an aircraft to replace the Jaguar and Tornado air defence fighter.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who signed a memorandum of understanding with his three European counterparts for the plane's production and in-service support phases of the programme, said: "This is a historic event which commits us to the future of the Eurofighter programme. It is also a vital step towards providing the air forces of our four nations with the aircraft they need to respond to the uncertain challenges ahead."

Responding to critics of Eurofighter, which will cost British taxpayers about £16 billion — the Ministry of Defence's most expensive procurement contract — Mr Robertson said: "Our studies have shown conclusively that Eurofighter is the best available combat aircraft for the UK in the post-Cold War world."

He added: "The four-nation programme will ensure that the European aerospace industry remains at the forefront of technology. It could also prove a catalyst for the industrial restructuring that is essential if Europe is to remain competitive in the world defence market."

Next June, the Eurofighter consortium, consisting of British Aerospace, Dasa of Germany, Casa of Spain and Alenia of Italy, will sign a production contract with the four governments to build 232 of the aircraft for the RAF, 180 for the Luftwaffe, 121 for the Italian air force and 87 for the Spanish.

Deliveries to the RAF are scheduled to begin in June 2002 and run on until 2014. British industry is primarily involved in construction of the front end of the jet, the cockpit, the front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced new radar.

About 200 British companies, including GEC-Marconi, Dowty, Lucas, Martin Baker and Smiths Industries, are involved in the development of a range of equipment. The aircraft will be assembled at British Aerospace sites in Lancashire from components manufactured by companies in the four partner nations. Rolls-Royce will manufacture the engines, primarily at plants in Bristol and Derby.

British Aerospace claims that only the American F22 Raptor, currently in development and estimated to cost twice as much as Eurofighter, will be able to out-manoeuvre the Eurofighter in the next generation of aircraft.

The MoD said the F22 would not be a good purchase because it would cost an extra £8 billion for just an eight per cent improvement in performance.

A spokesman for BAe said: "Critics have claimed that Eurofighter has not been designed with stealth technology, because it doesn't look like the American F117 Stealth fighter.

"But if it had been designed to look like the stealth fighter it wouldn't be able to operate as an air superiority aircraft. Eurofighter was designed to win dogfights and to be able to fly very tight turns and to escape at supersonic speeds without afterburners, and that's as stealthy as it needs to be."

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Union seeks an answer to lack of teachers

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

THE biggest teaching union is joining forces with Government advisers to try to settle the arguments over what is putting graduates off joining the profession.

The unions have argued that low pay, stress and constant criticism from politicians and the media are responsible for poor recruitment and retention. Ministers insist that they balance pressure with support for teachers and that pay compares well with other countries.

Now the National Union of Teachers is mounting joint research with the Teacher Training Agency to find the real influences on students. More than 3,000 final-year students have been asked their view of teaching as a career.

A select committee of MPs has expressed concern about the feasibility of meeting the Government's class size targets and maintaining quality in a range of shortage subjects unless more candidates can be attracted into the profession. The TTA has already launched a £10 million campaign to sell the profession to graduates with cinema advertising featuring Tony Blair and celebrities from the arts and sport.

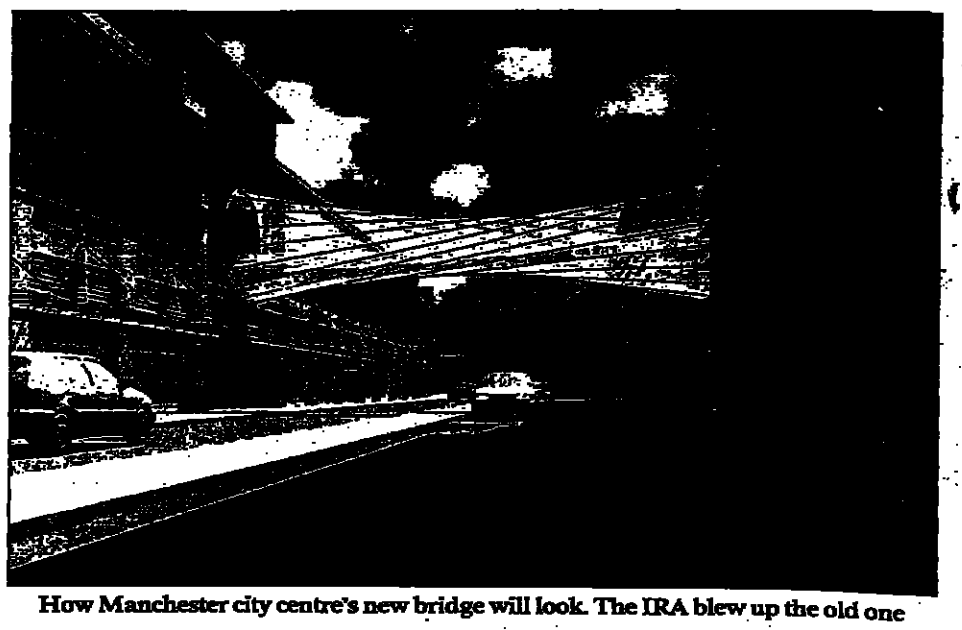
Recruitment to teacher training has declined sharply since the economy began to recover and more opportunities opened up for graduates. Postgraduate courses had attracted only 13,500 applications by the beginning of December, compared with 15,172 a year earlier. The four-year first-degree Bachelor of Education is also showing an 8 per cent drop in applications.

Pupil numbers will continue to rise until at least 2002. Although the targets for recruitment to training courses were raised this month, the NUT doubts that enough graduates will join unless conditions in schools improve.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "The Government insists that its aim is to see ever-improving performance in schools. But this cannot be achieved without a significant increase in the numbers of teachers recruited from among the brightest and best in our schools and higher education establishments.

"This survey will help the TTA and the NUT to counter obstacles to recruitment identified by the young people we most need to attract."

☐ David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced a £59 million boost in funding for education authorities to meet ambitious literacy targets yesterday. The Government has committed itself to ensuring that four out of five 11-year-olds reach their expected reading age by 2002. The first allocations from the Government's £500 million standards fund were made to coincide with the second reading of the School Standards and Framework Bill. Mr Blunkett said: "A firm grasp of the basics is vital for every child."



How Manchester city centre's new bridge will look. The IRA blew up the old one

Bombed city will have bridge to the future

By Russell Jenkins

A GLASS BRIDGE of futuristic design is to span a street in Manchester city centre on the spot where the IRA bomb exploded last year, as a symbol of the city's recovery after the shopping and office centre was ripped apart.

The tubular bridge, which replaces the damaged original, will span Corporation Street, linking the world's largest Marks and Spencer store with the Arndale Centre, it was announced yesterday.

Manchester Millennium Ltd, which is overseeing the £1 billion rebuilding programme for the city centre, chose the design, an hourglass-shaped spiral of steel and glass, from four final submissions. Its creators claim it as a world first.

Shoppers will be able to walk along a timber path through the largely transparent tube. The design was put together by architects Hodder Associates and the structural engineers Ove Arup.

Patrick Karney, chairman of Manchester City Council's city centre committee, said: "The bridge will provide a dramatic experience for people either using or passing under it and is a safe and exciting link between two of the most popular shopping complexes in town." Stephen Hodder, of Stephen Hodder Associates, said: "The image of the ruined bridge was one of the most vivid following the bombing. I feel that the reinstatement of the bridge may be seen as a symbol of the city centre's recovery."

Publication of the design came on the same day as the Prudential confirmed that terms had been agreed with P&O for the acquisition of the Arndale Centre for more than £300 million.

A design team has been appointed to create Exchange Square, a new public space, as part of the rebuilding programme. Martha Schwartz Inc, based in Massachusetts, has been awarded the commission to create a "superior and vital new public square". Martha Schwartz, a landscape gardener, is the inspiration behind large-scale urban projects in New York City and Minneapolis.

The detailed designs for Manchester are to be submitted to the city council's city centre committee in March 1998.

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Heart and lung boy, 10, dies in mother's arms

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S youngest heart and lung transplant patient has died more than seven *years after his pioneering* operation.

Ten-year-old Stephen Hollis, an only child, died peacefully in the arms of his mother, Sonia, on Sunday night. His donated heart and lungs were still working well at the end, but his kidneys had failed, probably from the side-effects of the drugs he took to combat rejection of the transplant.

Yesterday his father, Mick Hollis, said: "We have had seven years with Stephen we might not have expected without the transplant. We have some beautiful memories that no one can take away.

"It couldn't have happened at a worse time of year. Stephen always loved Christmas and this one is going to be empty without him. But he exceeded all expectations. I am glad he has passed away so peacefully. We have so many beautiful memories that we wouldn't have had without the transplant, and we will treasure them.

"He died peacefully in bed at home. We have known for a while that we have been on borrowed time. There has been a slow deterioration and we have watched him go through some bad times over the past 12 months.

"We knew it was coming, but we always just hoped that bit wouldn't happen yet. We rushed him into hospital last Monday but, by Wednesday night, his condition had declined so much that they told us there was nothing more they could do and we should take him home.

Mick Hollis: said his son had died peacefully

"Over the years he has had to be on a strict diet. But when we left the hospital, the doctors told us to forget it and let him have what he wanted. On the way home we called at a chip shop and he had his first fish and chips for two years. In the final few days he has been eating bars of chocolate and crisps which he hadn't been able to have."

Stephen, from Horbury, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size and his parents were told that his only hope of survival was a heart and lung transplant. They waited ten months for a suitable donor before the operation could take place at Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds, on April 28, 1990. At the time Stephen was just over three years old.

Only two days later he was tucking into chips and yoghurt and amazing doctors by the speed of his recovery. He went home a month after the operation.

At first doctors put him on eight different drugs which his parents had to administer nine times a day. As time passed, the number of drugs was reduced, but he still faced a daily mixture. Mr Hollis, 42, *a van driver said:* "The side-effects finally got to him."

He said that, despite his condition, Stephen had been able to start school with other children of his age and joined in playground games. Until the final *few months*, he had lived life to the full.

But the nature of his pioneering operation meant there was always a question mark about his long-term future and his parents continued to make *the most of the fun he had.*

Yesterday Duncan Walker, the surgeon who caried out the transplant, said: "I am very sorry to hear of Stephen's death. It is very sad news. The drugs that transplant patients *have to take can be very toxic.*

"I feel for his parents who have to be very dedicated to make sure the children take all the medication they have to . . . Stephen was a real live-wire. My thoughts are with his *mother and father.*"

JOAN RUSSELL/GUZELIAN

Stephen Hollis was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size. He had a transplant operation seven years ago

Father to sue hospitals over kidney transplant failure

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A FATHER who donated a kidney *to save his son plans to sue the* hospital trust that carried out the transplant.

The operation did not succeed, after what Albert Young will claim was negligence by the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. Mr Young, who is in his 60s, *says that the* trust's hospitals failed to identify that his kidney had more than one artery leading to it, which makes the operation more difficult.

He volunteered to give a kidney to his son, Paul, in March 1995. Operations involving live donors have become much more common in recent years, as there are never sufficient kidneys to meet the demand for transplants. Both un*derwent tests and treatment at St* Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, and Queen Alexandra Hospital, in nearby Cosham, until the transplant operation in November that year.

His solicitor, Andrew Thompson, has now served a High Court writ to obtain medical records connected with the operation.

He is trying to prove that the kidney was removed without doc*tors performing adequate tests to* determine Mr Young's suitability as a *kidney* donor for his son.

Mr Thompson, of the London-based firm Bolt Burdon, which specialises in cases of alleged medical negligence, said that he was not aware of another case in which an organ donor had taken legal action against a hospital trust. He believed that any damages award would be likely to *exceed £100,000.*

"What we are saying is that the *extraction should never have taken* place." Mr Thompson said.

Mr Young, who refused to comment, now has only one kidney, but is back at work. He is planning to sue for the pain, loss, injury and damage he says he suffered as a result of the operation. His son, who is still alive, was also unavailable for comment.

A *spokeswoman for Portsmouth* Hospitals NHS Trust said she was aware of *the impending legal* action. "Beyond that we cannot comment," she said.

At Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust in London, where many kidney transplant techniques have been pioneered, a spokeswoman said multi-vessel operations were rarely carried out on live donors. "There is a different approach to *the operation* and it is more difficult," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stalker dead after assault in street

A stalker freed from custody on Friday, on condition that he *stay out of Inverness, died* after apparently being attacked in the town hours later. Michael MacKintosh, 60, is believed to have suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital in Aberdeen on Sunday. *He had admitted in court* that he had persistently followed and harassed a named woman, and was ordered not to approach or communicate with her.

Crash injuries

A 26-year-old student and her boyfriend were seriously injured after a sports car stolen from the wife of the comedian Harry Enfield last month collided with their car near Buckingham Palace. A 27-year-old man has been charged.

Chase charge

A man appeared before magistrates in Bolton charged with manslaughter and criminal damage after a taxi driver was killed by a car when he was chased on to a road. *Dean* Kirkman, 20, from Bolton, was granted bail.

Ex-agent cleared

Bernard Carr, 44, a Hartlepool councillor and former election agent of Peter Mandelson, was cleared of gross indecency after the Crown Prosecution Service asked local magistrates to discontinue the case.

Blind tasting

Britain's first audible restaurant menu service has been launched. Via Vita and Brown's have joined the scheme, in which blind customers are handed portable cassette players and a tape of *the day's menu.*

Chain reaction

Chain-gang style uniforms for Scottish offenders on community service — introduced by Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary — are to abolished. Local authorities had complained about the practice being demeaning.

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Shark skin cure for the boy who fell on a fire

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ity will have the future

Furore as McAleese takes rival Host

A conciliatory gesture by the Irish President has angered the Roman Catholic Church, reports

Martin Fletcher

FRANK MILLER

President McAleese taking Communion at the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. Her gesture was supported by Jean Kennedy Smith, the US Ambassador, below

MARY McALEESE has become embroiled in the first major controversy of what promises to be a fiery seven-year term as President of Ireland after taking Communion in a Protestant church.

Through this seemingly laudable attempt to "build bridges" to Northern Ireland, the former Belfast law professor has created an unseasonal dispute between Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders, exposed a widening gulf between the Catholic hierarchy and its increasingly liberal flock, and raised the prospect of an unprecedented showdown between Church and State.

On Sunday Jean Kennedy Smith, the American Ambassador and a member of her country's most prominent Catholic family, joined the controversy by taking Communion in the same place — Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral — where Dr McAleese undertook that simple but highly symbolic act on December 7. Religion was "about bringing people together," Mrs Kennedy Smith said.

It is believed that no Irish President of the Catholic faith has taken Communion in a Protestant church before. As a practising Catholic and former adviser to Catholic bishops, Dr McAleese must have fully understood the implications of her action. She was evidently determined to keep her electoral promise and reach out across Ireland's religious divide. But the backlash has been swift.

Within days the Irish Bishops Conference declared that, under canon law, it was "not permissible for Roman Catholics to receive Communion in Protestant churches or at Protestant services", and pointedly expressed the hope that "the issue will not arise again".

Desmond Connell, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and a theological purist, then inflamed matters further by suggesting during a radio interview that for a Catholic to take Communion in a Protestant church was a "sham".

Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, hit back by saying he deeply regretted that something as sacred as the Eucharist should become the source of division, especially "at a time when Christians of different traditions are earnestly seeking greater understanding and the healing of long-standing wounds".

The Church of Ireland welcomed baptised Christians of any tradition who wanted to participate in the Eucharist, he said. "In a world of increasing secularism and a world in which Christianity itself is under attack, we ought surely to emphasise our points of agreement rather than overemphasising our differences."

Since then there has been a virtual free-for-all, with clergy, theologians, commentators and nuns weighing in with varying degrees of anger and regret, and Irish newspapers dedicating whole pages to the issue. Dr McAleese alone has remained silent. But then the tide of public opinion seems to be flowing strongly her way.

In a church in Co Cork on Sunday, several parishioners walked out when the priest said that Dr McAleese may have committed a mortal sin. One poll showed nearly 80 per cent supported her. Newspaper letters pages have been equally supportive, as have most editorials.

The *Irish Times* lamented that the Catholic Church had been "so ungenerous and forthright" in its condemnation, and suggested that it "seems set to lose ground and goodwill even with the many people who wish it well". Dr McAleese had "given tangible expression to her promise of being a builder of bridges. It is regrettable that Dr Connell and others cannot so readily be counted in her company."

Dr McAleese's gesture was also welcomed in the North, where she is regarded with suspicion by many Unionists. She showed that "her professions about bridge-building come from the heart", said the *Belfast Telegraph*. "The Catholic hierarchy felt it had to react — though it might have been best to remain silent".

The burning question now is not whether, but when, Dr McAleese will again take Communion in a Protestant church — and how the Catholic Church will react.

Heresy that has roots in centuries of persecution

■ To Anglicans, the bread and wine are symbols; to Catholics they are the body and blood of Christ. Ruth Gledhill reports on a fundamental difference

ROMAN Catholics are instructed from the cradle that to take Communion in a Protestant church is forbidden because Protestant sacraments are considered to be invalid.

The question is still highly emotive for most traditional Catholics, many of whom can recall an era when even to enter a Protestant church was not far short of heresy.

"Mary McAleese has taken Holy Communion in a church whose sacraments the Catholic Church does not recognise as valid or true sacraments in the Catholic sense," said Monsignor William Steele, ecumenical officer for the Catholic diocese of Leeds. "This is the only example I know of where a Catholic Head of State has done this."

The row stems from the Reformation and the question of priestly orders in the Anglican Church. Catholicism after the Reformation was outlawed and a series of draconian penal laws introduced. Everyone was forced to attend their new Anglican parish church each week, and anyone who refused to do so was fined.

Worse still for Catholics, under a series of laws passed from 1571 onwards, any Catholic priest discovered in England was considered to be guilty of treason and subject to the death penalty. The first to die was Father Cuthbert Mayne in 1577.

Gradually, over the centuries, the laws became less stricly enforced, and were finally lifted under Catholic emancipation in the 19th century.

But memories of the sufferings of that time remain, embodied in the surviving priests' holes in the homes of wealthy recusants who sheltered them from persecution.

While ecumenism has opened up unprecedented dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics this century, the row over orders lingers on.

In the immediate aftermath of the Reformation, it centred on whether the Church of England had maintained the apostolic succession in the consecration of its bishops.

There were repeated claims that the vital continuity in the "laying on of hands" from the time of the apostles had been broken with the appointment of Archbishop Matthew Parker by Queen Elizabeth I in 1559.

The Church of that era was split by rumours that, instead of being validly consecrated in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, Archbishop Parker had knelt on the floor of a pub, the Nag's Head in Cheapside, and been told by a bishop who had been deprived of his living to "receive the power of preaching the Word of God sincerely". This rumour was subsequently repudiated.

But in 1896, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical, *Apostolicae Curae*, which still stands, and in which he condemned Anglican orders as "absolutely null and utterly void".

This was on the grounds that the "intention" of the Anglican Church in its ordination rite is defective because there are no words or acts which confer explicitly on the priest the power to offer sacrifice.

The Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965, softened the line slightly.

In its document on ecumenism, the council recognised that the *Holy Spirit* was at work in the sacraments of other Churches.

However, when the Church of England decided in 1992 to ordain women, it became clear from the Catholic response that *Apostolicae Curae* was still the official line.

But even if the difficulty over priestly orders were to be resolved, problems still remain over the nature of the sacrament itself.

Many Anglicans believe the bread and wine to be mere symbols of the body and blood of Christ, whereas Catholics believe they have been transformed by the sacrament into the actual body and blood of Christ.

"It is like the difference between whisky and lemonade," said one cradle Catholic. "There is no comparison."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-envoy from Iraq given bail of £10,000

A former Iraqi ambassador seeking refuge in Britain was released from immigration detention yesterday, seven weeks after arriving at Heathrow airport on a false passport. Majid al-Samarrai insists that he faces death if he should return to Iraq.

Mr al-Samarrai, 49, a former Iraqi government propaganda chief and Ambassador to Libya, Bulgaria and most recently Venezuela, was released on £10,000 bail after a hearing at the Immigration Appelate Authority in Feltham, West London.

The former head of National Radio and Television in Baghdad was interrogated by MI5 officers during his detention. His lawyer said that he would be asking the Home Office to issue urgent travel documents to allow Mr al-Samarrai's family to join him in Britain.

£13,000 train set

One of the oldest model trains to be sold at auction fetched £13,800 in London. The German tinplate toy, consisting of a locomotive, tender, two carriages and three goods wagons, was made by Buchner of Nuremberg. It had had only *three owners since 1849.*

Ship fire rages

Firefighters were tackling a blaze on the 29,000-ton British-registered *Kukawa*, which was towed into Falmouth by a tug. A stowaway who emerged after the fire broke out in the engine room in mid-Channel on Saturday was being questioned by immigration officers.

Drug-rape arrest

A man of 19 was remanded in custody by Manchester magistrates, charged with drugging and raping a schoolgirl. Kevin Michael Hunt, of from Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester, is accused of attacking the 12-year-old girl on Friday.

Ferry rescue

Three hundred passengers were involved in a rescue operation when their ferry, *The Pride of Le Havre* , went to the aid of a blazing cargo ship in the Channel. All crew members were winched to safety.

Pilot killed

A pilot, killed when his two-seater Cessna crashed into a hillside near Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway on Sunday, has been named as Phillip Williams, 44, of Kilmarnock. He was flying from Carlisle to Prestwick, and had reported a fault.

Turkey's reprieve

A 20lb turkey on a poultry farm at Hemyock, Devon, has been saved from the Christmas table after becoming a surrogate mother to 11 ducklings. It sat on the nest of abandoned eggs for 28 days and now stands guard over the hatched ducklings.

The best Christmas present for 500 years

For 500 years the Nukak, one of Amazonia's last nomadic tribes, have seen their land stolen from them, and their people die. Recently half their population has been wiped out by diseases brought in by outsiders. The man on the right of this photo was amongst them. But now, thanks to Survival's members, their land and their future are secure.

After a six-year Survival campaign, the Colombian government this week finally moved to protect all the Nukak's land. For the first Christmas in 500 years the Nukak have a reason to celebrate. Unfortunately, many other tribal peoples around the world are not so lucky. If you would like to help the world's most effective campaigning organisation for tribal peoples, please ask for details.

As the Nukak will confirm, it's worth it.

Survival is a worldwide organisation supporting tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lives, lands and human rights.

Survival
for tribal peoples

Boxer sentenced for threat to PCs

BY A CORRESPONDENT

HERBIE HIDE, the world heavyweight boxing champion, was ordered yesterday to do 60 hours' community service after admitting using threatening behaviour to two police officers.

The 26-year-old Briton, who holds the World Boxing Organisation version of the heavyweight crown, threw a punch at PC Maria-Jane Horder, which she ducked to avoid, magistrates in Norwich were told. He also pushed PC Robin Boothby, 33, in the face.

Hide, who lives in Norwich, admitted threatening behaviour at a hearing earlier this month. A charge of assaulting police officers, which he denied, had been dismissed after the prosecution offered no evidence.

The magistrates ordered *him to complete his community service* within 12 months. They said he should pay compensation of £50 each to PC Horder and PC Boothby, plus £50 costs.

Hide was stopped while driving his Bentley erratically in Norwich late one night in July and, questioned by police, he had become abusive, screwing up a traffic form and swearing. Nick Methold, for the prosecution, said that PC Boothby was pushed in the face while attempting to radio for assistance after Hide had snatched a traffic docket from him.

PC Horder approached the boxer and told him he was in danger of being arrested. "He threw a punch at her with his hand in a clenched fist," said Mr Methold. "It missed. She ducked to avoid it."

The court was told that Hide was in breach of a conditional discharge order imposed two years ago after he was convicted of causing criminal damage in a "road rage" incident. Magistrates heard that he had driven into the back of a woman's car after taking a "dim view" of the way she was driving. He also owed nearly £600 in unpaid traffic and parking fines.

After the hearing Hide, who regained his title in Norwich in June and is to defend it in February, said he hoped to complete his community service by doing fitness work with youngsters. The boxer was accompanied to court by his new agent, the former Wimbledon footballer John Fashanu, who said he intended to help to create a new image for Hide and to allow him to concentrate on boxing.

TV stations declare war over hellish neighbours

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE documentary *Neighbours from Hell* was responsible yesterday for causing a fresh outbreak of hostility between ITV and the BBC.

ITV's director of programmes, David Liddiment, accused BBC1 executives of "petty small-mindedness" and accused them of poaching the idea from under ITV's nose.

The result is that both channels will now screen uncannily similar documentaries about feuding neighbours within an hour of each other on the same night. Mr Liddiment said it was a blatant example of the BBC letting its preoccupation with ratings override its commitment to its public service remit.

The war began last summer when ITV showed its one-off, hour-long programme *Neighbours from Hell*, which gained an audience of 11 million. ITV immediately began planning a follow-up series but in the autumn the programme maker, Carlton, made the executive producer, Roger James, redundant.

The two freelance directors who had been working with Mr James decided they wanted to carry on working with him and offered the idea to BBC1's controller, Peter Salmon, who snapped it up. The team then rushed to get the programme together and have an unfinished series of two episodes of *Neighbours at War* to begin screening on Monday, January 5, at 9.30 pm, which was for years scheduled as the *Panorama* slot.

ITV has responded by rescheduling its series *Neighbours from Hell* at 8.30 pm on the same night, insisting that it was a commercial, competitive organisation, not a publicly funded one.

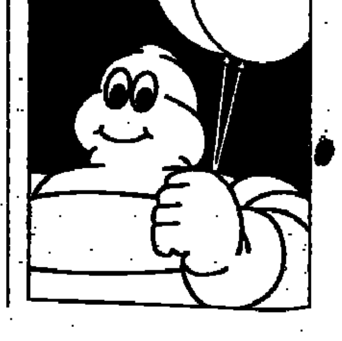
Mr Liddiment said he was "very surprised" the BBC had "copycatted" ITV's idea. "They have a fine tradition of making factual programmes, and I am surprised they need to nick ideas from us. It is petty and rather pathetic.

"*Neighbours at War* is scheduled in what was a slot reserved for serious investigative journalism. *Panorama* has now been put back to 10 pm, which shows the increasing marginalisation of its public service responsibilities."

A BBC spokesman said: "ITV is being disingenuous for taking the conscious decison to risk irritating the audience by scheduling *Neighbours from Hell* on the same night as *Neighbours at War*.

"Our programme will be different with full public service support for people caught up in these situations. There will be a hotline and other information available."

The BBC denied it was being petty and small-minded and claimed that the idea of feuding neighbours had been done by Channel 4 and *World in Action* before. "It is not new", said the spokesman. Mr Liddiment has recently poached a number of high profile staff from the BBC including the head of sport Brian Barwick.



هكذا من الأصل

Record-breaking bird comes in from the cold

A Russian swan is back for its 27th Christmas, writes **Lin Jenkins**

A BEWICK'S swan named Casino has entered the record books by returning to Britain for its 27th consecutive winter.

The swan landed at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, after a 2,500-mile flight from northern Russia. Its annual arrival at the reserve beats by a year the previous record set by a Bewick's swan in the early 1980s. The normal lifespan of a Bewick's swan is 15 years.

Its history has been chronicled by researchers at Slimbridge. They know that the bird has had two mates, both now dead, and 32 offspring. One of its cygnets has joined it at the reserve, which is used as a wintering ground by between 400 and 500 Bewick's swans.

They will stay until the end of February before returning to their Russian breeding grounds. John Bowler, a research officer at Slimbridge, has been watching the bird's progress for nine years. He said: "She is looking very good and there is no apparent reason why she should not keep going. She could pair up and breed again and we have our fingers crossed for next year."

The bird, who was ringed as a chick, no longer has its tag but is easily recognised by the Slimbridge watchers because of its distinctive beak markings. However, if it returns next year, Dr Bowler will not be there to see it. He is shortly to begin a new job, tracking sea and tropical birds in the Seychelles for the Wildlife Trusts.

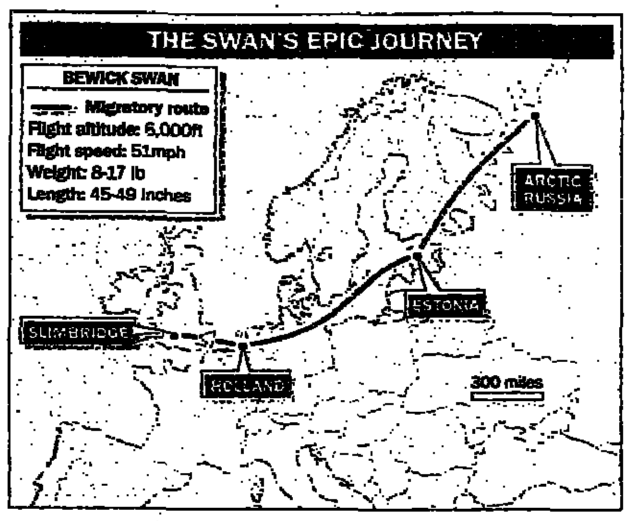
He said: "I am looking forward to the change. But I will miss the Bewick's swans, particularly Casino."

Bewick's swans are winter visitors to Britain and are sometimes confused with whooper swans, which have a similar flight, call and habits. They nest on tundra and breed on islets in estuaries of large rivers or near shallow water on low-lying shores. Sometimes several pairs may nest in a limited area, each pair building a large, smooth nest up to 2½ft high and built of moss with a few lichens.

In winter and in migration, the swans can be seen on lakes, reservoirs, flooded grasslands and sometimes sheltered sea bays. They feed almost entirely on vegetable matter — seeds, pond grass and aquatic plants — although part of a small fish has been recorded, and remains of water insects.

Bewick's swans are less common than mute or whooper swans, but can often be seen in family groups or large flocks when they winter in Britain.

THE SWAN'S EPIC JOURNEY



BARRY BATCHELOR

Casino the Bewick's swan at Slimbridge yesterday. It is the oldest swan recorded

Chief of police puts policy into practice

By Paul Wilkinson

A CHIEF constable has experienced policing at the sharp end while travelling through his patch. Barry Shaw, 56, who pioneered the "zero tolerance" policy in his Cleveland force, was being driven to a carol concert when they saw a woman being attacked by two men. He told PC Ian McDonald to pull over.

Before Mr Shaw could intervene, the woman was thrown through a shop window. Assisted by his driver, Mr Shaw held the men until other officers arrived. The woman, 35, who was with two children in Middlesbrough when she was attacked last Thursday evening, did not require medical attention.

Cleveland police said: "The chief knows that officers on the streets could have dealt with this, but he was on the scene. It does prove that our positive policing strategy goes right to the top."

A man has been charged with assault, and four others are expected to face charges of causing an affray.

Hospital set second patient free to kill

By Mark Henderson

A TEENAGE schizophrenic killed his neighbour after being released from a hospital which was recently criticised for discharging another patient who went on to kill.

Tolga Kurter, now 20, of Islington, North London, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday to the manslaughter of Nicky Boyd, 42, on the ground of diminished responsibility. The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, QC, ordered that he be detained indefinitely at Rampton Special Hospital.

Kurter was 19 when he stabbed Mr Boyd to death in April, a few months after undergoing treatment at the Waterlow Unit of the Whittington Hospital in Archway, North London. In March, the same psychiatric unit was the subject of a critical inquiry into the release of Martin Mursell, who killed his stepfather and tried to kill his mother two weeks after leaving its care in 1994.

Norman Harvey, a consultant psychiatrist who took the decisions to release both Kurter and Mursell, resigned from his position at the hospital in May after he was suspended pending an inquiry *into Mr Boyd's death.* Dr Harvey was strongly criticised in the report into the killing by Mursell, which found he had "not responded adequately" to the patient's continuing need for out-patient care.

Henry Kennedy, a psychiatrist, told the court that Kurter, who had convictions for assault, dishonesty and possessing offensive weapons, had not been found to have schizophrenia, despite clear signs that he was suffering from it. "In hindsight, the totality of the information shows he had been exhibiting signs of schizophrenia," he said. "I believe this diagnosis was not reached because the clinicians did not want to make a diagnosis that carries such a devastating prognosis."

Mr Boyd, a taxi driver who lived on the same estate as Kurter, was stabbed to death on April 22. Kurter believed he had killed Micky Spears, his mother's former lover, the court was told.

Camden and Islington Health Authority, which is responsible for the Waterlow Unit, won a High Court action this month to halt a damages suit by Christopher Clunis, a psychiatric patient who killed a man on a London Underground platform after being discharged from the authority's care. It is conducting a *review of mental health services,* and yesterday announced an inquiry into the Kurter case.

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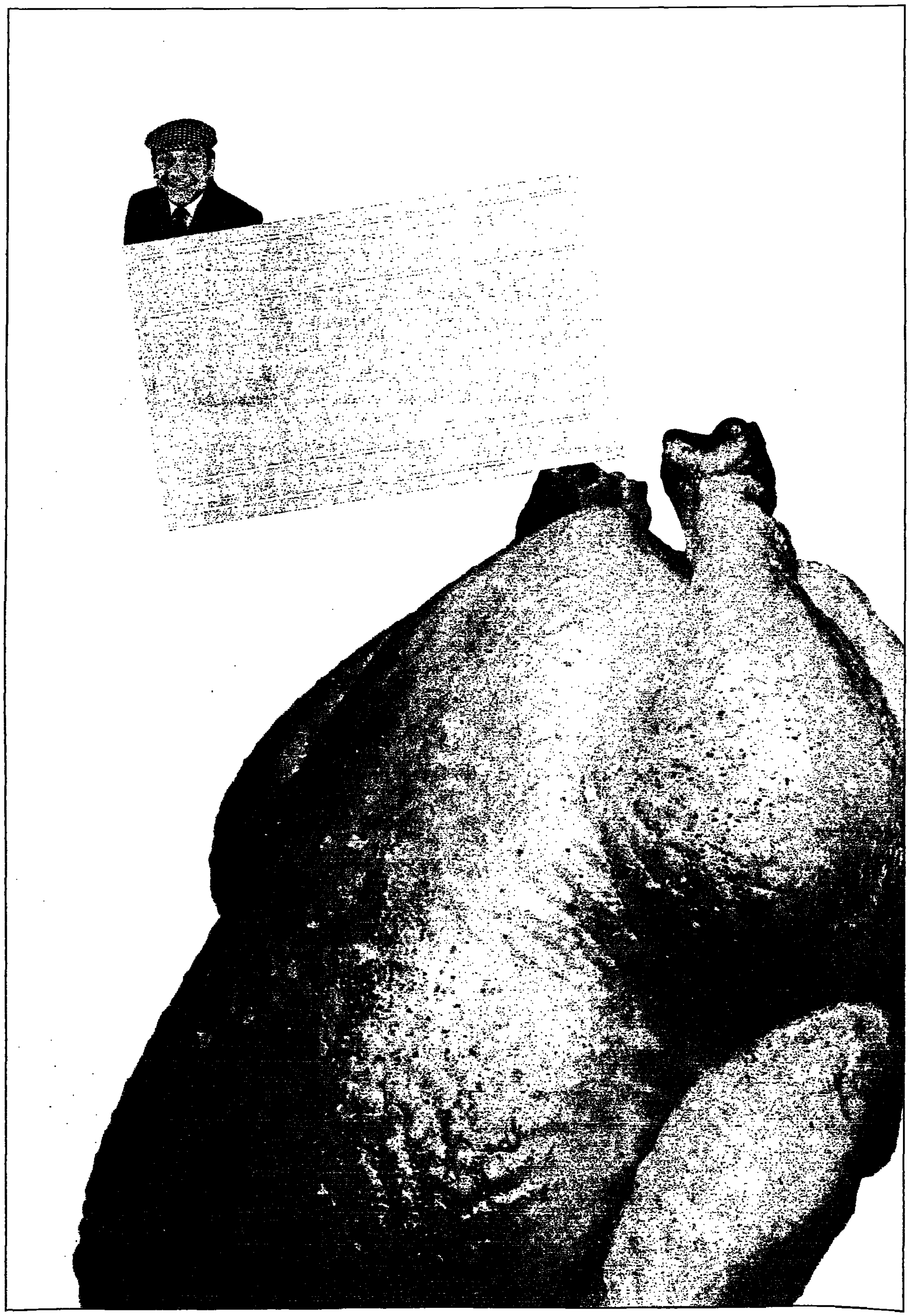
If more than the £40,000 required for the gene sequencer is raised through this Christmas appeal, it will go directly to other vital prostate cancer research at the Institute of Cancer Research.



America trusts more in God and miracles

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS' faith in God and belief in miracles are surging to their highest levels in ten years, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The Pew Research Centre in Washington reported that 71 per cent of respondents said they never doubted the existence of God — up from 60 per cent in 1987. Belief that miracles came from the power of God was held by 61 per cent, an increase of 14 per cent from a decade ago, while 53 per cent said prayer was important to daily life, compared to 41 per cent previously.

The trend appears to be reflected in popular culture. The television programme *Touched by an Angel* is among the top-rated shows, and books on angels, miracles and spirituality are booming.

Martin Marty, a church historian, said science and ideology were not seen as powerful as ten years ago. He drew a contrast between Americans being at ease with the notion of God, and Europe, where religion had suffered from scepticism and wars. He said America's immigrants became more religious after they arrived.

Belief in God does not translate into comparable church attendance. Forty per cent of Americans say they go to church, but the real figure may be only 30 per cent. Mr Marty said.

Leonid Brezhnev on a hunting expedition. The KGB apparently refused his suggestion that it should murder Nikita Khrushchev, right, his predecessor as Soviet leader

KGB refused to kill Khrushchev

Leonid Brezhnev wanted to have his predecessor assassinated, writes

Richard Beeston from Moscow

THE late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, contemplated ordering the assassination of Nikita Khrushchev, his predecessor, in 1964 but lost his nerve and instead instigated a bloodless coup, according to a former secret service chief.

Shedding new light on one of the most dramatic episodes in Soviet history, Vladimir Semichastny, the head of the KGB from 1961 to 1967, broke his silence at the weekend to disclose that the feared secret police had rejected the suggestion that it "eliminate physically" the Communist leader.

"He [Khrushchev] had become, by that time, an overripe fruit for our society and our country, and without his removal problems would have been compounded," the elderly former spy chief told Russia's NTV television on Sunday. Although Khrushchev is today fondly remembered by a whole generation of Russians for his liberalism and his famous speech in 1956 denouncing Stalin to the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, after a decade in power he had become increasingly isolated from the party leadership.

Brezhnev was the key instigator of a plot to overthrow him that had the tacit support of the KGB and most key members of the Politburo. However, only a decade after the death of Stalin, none of the leadership wanted to take the first move for fear of being arrested and shot.

"Brezhnev was not a particularly brave man," Mr Semichastny said. "He was already willing to become the top leader, but wanted someone else to sort things out with Khrushchev, without getting involved himself. He was still rather afraid of Khrushchev so he did not have enough courage to go about it." Mr Semichastny said that Brezhnev finally approached the KGB directly and suggested that Khrushchev should be removed by force, either through arrest or assassination. "When this matter was raised, I flatly refused, saying there would be no physical action and no arrest, nothing like that," he said. "You have a Central Committee plenum, you have the Central Committee, I said, so go on and make a decision, but we are not going to do this — at least the KGB will not play any part."

In the event, Brezhnev waited until Khrushchev went on holiday to the Black Sea resort of Pitsunda that October before winning the support of fellow Politburo members to oust him. The Soviet leader was recalled to Moscow, supposedly for an urgent meeting on agriculture, where he was presented with a fait accompli and told to resign.

Even though his KGB-appointed bodyguard had given a warning of the plot, he was *taken by surprise and did not* try to fight the decision. Instead he retired to a dacha in the country, where he died in obscurity in 1971 and was the only Soviet leader to be buried outside Red Square.

Khrushchev's brief era of liberalisation was quickly smothered during the long period of stagnation under Brezhnev's rule. However, his reforms did leave a powerful impression on a generation of young Russians. Many later played key roles in pushing through the radical changes introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s.

☐ **Tbilisi:** The grandson of Josef Stalin offered Georgia a gift on the 118th anniversary of the dictator's birth — a book containing names and pictures of Stalin's foes.

In an interview on Georgian television broadcast yesterday, Yevgeni Dzhugashvili, 59, a former Soviet army colonel, criticised journalists and historians who "denounce and deride" Stalin.

"We have decided to start a 'black book' of those who slander Stalin, accompanied by their pictures, so that people see them," said Mr Dzhugashvili, whose surname was *Stalin's real name. A copy* of the book will be stored at Stalin's museum in his hometown of Gori.

Kennedy ordered troops out of Vietnam

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

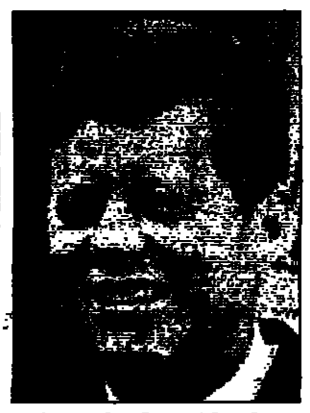
NEW evidence surfaced yesterday that President Kennedy had been planning to pull American forces out of South Vietnam, a move that would have averted America's greatest military defeat.

Documents released from government archives include a memo written by General Maxwell Taylor, his chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in October 1963, seven weeks before the President's assassination in Dallas. The general told the joint chiefs to plan for the withdrawal of all US military personnel by the end of 1965. Indeed, they were to withdraw 1,000 of their troops by the end of 1963.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, feared that a withdrawal would expose him to accusations of being soft on communism when he ran for the presidency in his own right in 1964. He reversed Kennedy's strategy.

The memo will add to controversy among historians over Kennedy's intentions in Vietnam. When the late Robert Kennedy ran for president as an anti-war candidate in 1968, he assured supporters that his brother had been determined to avoid a land war in Asia.

But Ronald Spector, a Washington history professor, argues that a decisive factor in keeping US troops in Vietnam may have been the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam, between the writing of the Maxwell memo and Kennedy's death.



Kennedy: determined to avoid land war in Asia

A misspent youth helps the joystick generation

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A GROWING body of research in America suggests that computer and video games — for long the bane of parents who believe that such gadgets do no more than rot their children's brains — may benefit the health of young minds.

Scientists argue that these games, far from addling the heads of adolescents, help children to develop their skills of concentration, "visualisation" and problem-solving.

According to a report in *The New York Times* yesterday, some experts even believe that computer games are a contributing factor in the steady rise in IQ scores in the industrialised world in recent years.

In a study of about 200 students in America and Italy, published in *The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, researchers concluded that computer games "are not a waste of time". Instead, they should be seen as a form of intellectual exercise.

There is evidence also that a youth "misspent" in the company of computer games serves as useful grooming for a role in a high-technology economy. According to Patricia Greenfield, a Professor of Psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles, "the same skills used in computer games are basic technological literacy skills, and these skills are extremely important in the modern world".

Another scholar, J. C. Herz, from Harvard University, echoes that thesis. In her recent book, *Joystick Nation: How Video Games Ate Our Quarters, Won Our Hearts, and Rewired Our Minds*, she wrote: "Video games are perfect training for life in *fin de siècle* America, where daily existence demands the ability to parse 16 kinds of information being fired at you simultaneously from telephones, televisions, fax machines, pagers, personal digital assistants, voice messaging systems, postal delivery, e-mail and the Internet.

"You have to recognise patterns in this whirl of data and you have to do it fast. Those to the joystick born have a built-in advantage."

Such statements would have been treated as heresy only five years ago by parents and teachers. Fears of a "mindless addiction" once led C. Everett Koop, a former US Surgeon-General, to say that American children were "into these games body and soul".

Yet those fears are now crumbling as evidence emerges that a childhood spent with computer games does not turn potential solid citizens into unproductive vegetables. According to Idit Harel, founder of an Internet website for children, "the kids who grew up immersed in computer games are now in their 20s and they are for the most part a generation of bright, thoughtful and successful young people".

Computer ace: Matthew Broderick and Ally Sheedy pit their wits against the system in *Wargames*

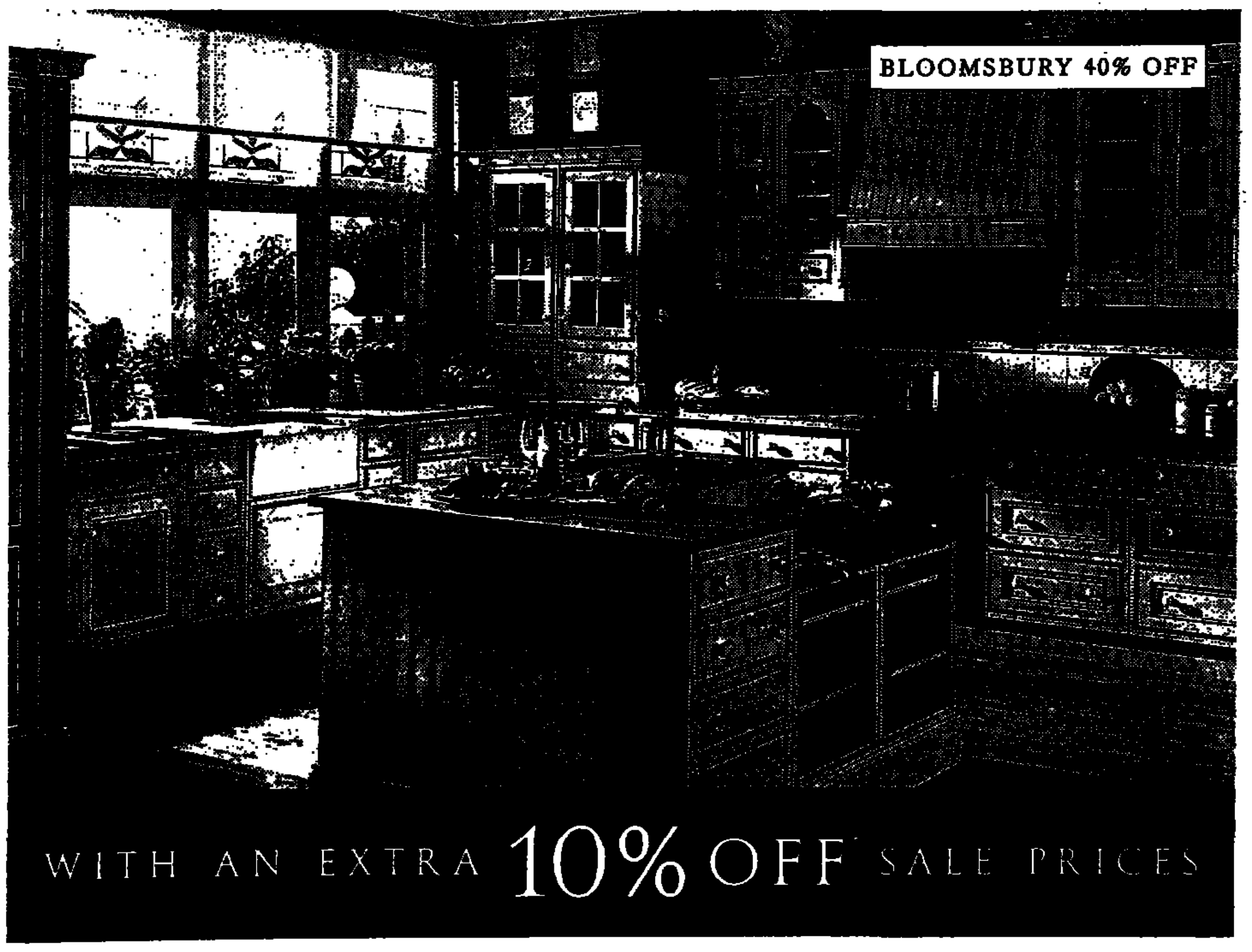
Rabbi laundered drug money

New York: A rabbi and his brother yesterday admitted money-laundering charges after channelling more than $3 million in Colombian drug proceeds through a Brooklyn synagogue and yeshiva (religious school).

The men were charged with being part of a group of Orthodox Jews who laundered the $3.5 million (£2.3 million) from Colombian and Dominican drug dealers in 1995 and 1996. By putting the cash through Congregation Eitz Chaim and Bobover Yeshiva and another organization, Chaim Shel Shulem, all located in the heavily Orthodox Jewish Borough Park section of Brooklyn, they were able to move the money to Swiss bank accounts and then back to the dealers. Rabbi Mahir Reiss, 47, and his brother Abraham Reiss, 48, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court.

Mahir faces up to four years' jail, while Abraham faces three years. The men, to be sentenced in March, agreed to give up $1 million hidden in bank and stock accounts. *(Reuters)*

HALF PRICE SALE STARTS BOXING DAY



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Bosnian capital gives its heart to 'saviour' Clinton

Sarajevans turned out in force for a morale-boosting — and theatrical — first visit by a US President, **Tom Walker** reports

BILL CLINTON cemented his almost mythical status among Bosnians yesterday by becoming the first American President to visit Sarajevo, their capital, and the most warmly received dignitary of the post-war period.

People such as the Pope and the U2 rock group have trodden the same path this year, but the pomp, chaos and traffic jams surrounding their tours paled when compared with the Clinton roadshow.

The President, seen as the saviour of the Bosnian nation, the man who succeeded where Europe's leaders failed, did not disappoint, and gave a heartfelt speech in the national theatre that visibly moved many Bosnian politicians. Even Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb President and a stranger now reviled in the town of her youth, appeared to be on the point of tears.

After listening to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr Clinton, who was accompanied by his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, gave a ten-minute speech that was relayed to hundreds outside and broadcast live on national television. "You have seen what war has wrought," he said, his voice croaking. "You know what peace can bring. Seize the chance before you. You can do nothing to change the past, but if you can let it go, you can do everything to build the future. The world is watching, the choice is yours. May you make the right one."

He was applauded by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Kresimir Zubak, the Croat member of the state presidency, both of whom he had praised. Conspicuously, he did not thank *Momcilo* Krajisnik, the Bosnian Serb member of the presidency, who did not attend the theatre ceremony, although he did meet Mr Clinton earlier.

The Clintons and their vast entourage, including Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and Bob and Elizabeth Dole, touched down in a C17 transport, *The Spirit of Bob Hope*, in thick mist at Sarajevo at 7.30am, their flight from Washington having been rerouted through Germany.

A huge security operation that had taken days of planning and rehearsing sprang into action, with snipers and anti-terrorism experts guarding every angle for a potential assassin. Helicopters whirred overhead and from farther above came the quiet drone of unseen Awacs spyplanes.

> ❛ After Tito, he was the first to really support the idea of the Bosnian nation ❜

The initial port of call for the 30-vehicle motorcade was the national museum, where they were driven into a green tent, where photographers were occasionally invited to snap the American leader with the joint Bosnian presidency.

The column of gleaming vehicles then made an unscheduled detour into the Old City, where to the crowd's delight the Clintons made a brief walkabout in the cathedral square and took a coffee in the Bosnia corner café.

"He is up there like a god to us, like Tito," said Hamdija Krestalica, who had brought with him his entire administration department from the central post office. "After Tito, he was the first one who really supported the idea of the Bosnian nation."

For some European observers the Clinton phenomenon was a galling experience. "It is a cosmetic exercise," said one French officer in Nato's Stabilisation Force, wincing at the sometimes chocolate-box nature of the speech. "I do not know who he is fooling — probably the Americans. I hope not the Bosnians." A colleague was equally acid: "It is appropriate that he gives out this stuff in a theatre."

Mr Clinton told his audience that "we gather in the dawn after a long darkness" and urged the politicians staring at him from the front row to heed the Dayton peace accord, now two years old but hardly implemented.

"Those who rise to that responsibility will have the full support of the international community; those who shirk it will isolate themselves," he said in a pointed reference to Mrs Plavsic, the one Serb leader apparently prepared to do business with Washington and the West.

Photograph, page 20

EPA

President Clinton in Sarajevo yesterday with his daughter, Chelsea, and wife, Hillary. Later, the family flew north to visit American troops

Milosevic: relief as socialist wins run-off

Serb hardliner defeated at fourth ballot

By Tom Walker

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC looked to have earned himself more breathing space yesterday as his socialist candidate celebrated victory in the run-off for the Serbian presidency.

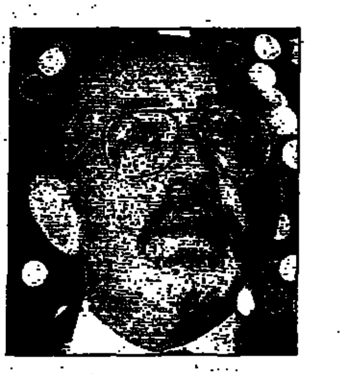
A collective sigh of relief was breathed by diplomats and Western capitals, where the resurgence of extreme Serbian nationalism, under the maverick lawyer and one-time paramilitary leader Vojislav Seselj, was viewed with horror. The election commission said that Milan Milutinovic, the former foreign minister, won 58.6 per cent of votes polled on Sunday, compared with 38.1 for Mr Seselj. Turnout had been just above the 50 per cent level necessary for validity — the flaw in Mr Seselj's apparent victory last month. Mr Milutinovic said last night: "We have finally finished these elections. Now it is time to get to work."

Mr Seselj, whose share of the vote collapsed, claimed that widespread fraud was behind the socialist victory. He blamed ballot-stuffing and intimidation of his party's representatives in the southern region of Kosovo. The majority Albanian population there rarely votes, but turnout was mysteriously high. Belgrade's middle classes, exhausted by an election that gave them a choice between Mr Milosevic's socialism and Mr Seselj's recipe of hard work and xenophobia, appeared to have voted largely to stop the financial drain of the constant re-runs — it was the fourth time they had been asked to vote in three months.

Television probably played a part in Mr Seselj's downfall. The state channel broadcast a damning portrait of him an hour before the election media blackout. It showed selected highlights of Mr Seselj's parliamentary years, including him beating up opponents and pulling out a gun.

Bethlehem pilgrims find no room at the Star hotel

AND she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke ii, 7.



Hanna Nasser, left, the town Mayor, is finding it hard to feel festive, **Christopher Walker** reports

THE same fate is likely to befall the millions of Christian pilgrims expected here to *mark the rapidly approaching* millennium as the ill-equipped West Bank town has only 900 hotel rooms, and plans an increase of only 600 by 2000.

Expectations of hosting four million people during the millennium year are a "joke", Amir Dajani, a hotel management lecturer at Bethlehem University, told European officials attending a Destination *Christmas* conference held to coincide with the launching of the logo for Bethlehem 2000, the bid to capitalise on the traditional birthplace of Jesus, six miles south of Jerusalem.

In addition to the woeful lack of infrastructure and accommodation in the town, its tourism industry has been affected by successive crises arising from Islamic suicide attacks, Israeli closures and the disastrous knock-on effect of November's massacre in Luxor, in which 58 tourists were slaughtered. With tourism this month in Bethlehem down an estimated 20 per cent on December 1996, itself a bad year because of the bus bombings which killed dozens of Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, there is an atmosphere *of deep gloom hanging over* the town where visitors are pounced on by sellers of olive-wood trinkets and unemployment is running at more than 40 per cent.

"The few tourists who have so far arrived this Christmas period are all frightened," said *Lieutenant* Maynal al-Sous, 28, one of the few women serving in the uniformed tourist police of Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority. "All the tourists who come here are frightened because we are Arabs. They automatically think we are extremists and that we will kill them. But that is not the case at all — they will be safe here."

The unease has been increased by a spate of stoning and shooting incidents near Bethlehem in recent days in *which one Israeli was seriously* wounded and three others were injured when their car overturned under repeated attack by Palestinians hurling rocks. Palestinian feelings have been inflamed by Sunday's claim by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime *Minister*, that the West Bank — land taken from Jordan in 1967 — "is part of Israel proper".

In addition to fear of attack by terrorists — who have yet to target foreigners in the way that Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt and Algeria have done — visitors to Bethlehem have been hit by the draconian Israeli closures imposed after every suicide attack.

"For more than 15 days this September, all tourist buses were barred from passing the huge Israeli roadblock that straddles the entrance road *some two miles from the* Church of the Nativity," said Michel Kreitem, one of a group of Bethlehem hoteliers.

Mr Kreitem, 62, is owner of Bethlehem's leading hotel, the Star, which by what he calls "a *minor miracle*" has all its 72 rooms let on Christmas eve: for every other day of the year, because of the widespread fears of terrorism and even another Israeli-Arab war, *occupancy rates do not rise* above 25 per cent.

"Until a few days ago our only guests were going to be a group of 20 intrepid pilgrims from London who, unlike everybody else, did not cancel in the wake of the breakdown in the peace process and the *Luxor massacre*." Mr Kreitem said. "Then out of the blue, staff and visiting family from the Chilean Embassy — all Roman Catholics — suddenly wanted 110 rooms. I gave them every one I had and sent the others to another hotel."

Mr Kreitem, whose family *owns the hotel jointly with that* of his wife Mary, who followed in biblical footsteps and travelled south from their native Nazareth in 1948, is pessimistic about any improvement in the mood of despair gripping the managers of Bethlehem's 11 hotels and hospices. "Tourism is a factor of the political situation," he said, waving a sheaf of recent cancellations.

The absence of seasonal cheer has been reinforced by the lack of a proper Christmas tree in Manger Square, dominated by a tasteless artificial creation supplied by a local businessman, while some coloured lights have been strung haphazardly over a fir growing in the garden of the Orient Palace Hotel next to the 4th-century Church of the Nativity.

"Last year the Israelis impounded our 46ft tree from the people of Finland in the docks until three hours before the *Christmas* Eve ceremonies were about to start," said Hanner Nasser, the Mayor of Bethlehem. "They said it *might* have disease, which was nonsense. We will not be humiliated again, so we have refused all offers of trees from abroad."

CHRIS HARRIS

Michel Kreitem, who is lucky to have no vacancies at his hotel for Christmas

Negev jobless stage protest

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, *under pressure to put* job-creation ahead of peace, yesterday visited the southern Negev area, where the jobless have been protesting for days (Ross Dunn writes).

In the town of Ofaqim, protesters called on the Government to stop funding the Palestinian Authority. For days, demonstrators have been burning tyres outside the mayor's office. Mr Netanyahu *outlined a plan to create* 300 new jobs but his move was undermined by news that a textile factory was to move its production to Jordan.

Italian call to scrap US bases

From Richard Owen in Rome

THE Italian centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi was yesterday faced with demands from its hard-left parliamentary allies to scrap all American bases on Italian soil.

Armando Cossutta, the president of Communist Refoundation, the Marxist party which holds the balance of power in the Italian Lower House, told *La Stampa* it was "unacceptable" that a "foreign *power" had bases over which* Italy had little or no control. "There is no justification for the bases. There is no threat from the Eastern bloc any more. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the United States might not use its bases for purposes which are at odds with our own foreign policy," he said.

Government officials emphasise that Italy is fully committed to Nato and the maintenance of Western security in the Mediterreanean and the Middle East. But they also admit that the Government is preparing the ground *for a review of the 40-year-old* "secret treaties" governing US and Nato facilities. Officials said the conditions under which the bases operate in Italy were drawn up in the late 1950s and had *never* been made public or debated by the Italian parliament.

Italy considers itself a linchpin of Western security interests in the Mediterranean at a time when the East-West conflict has been replaced by Balkans instability and fear of the impact on southern Europe of Islamic fundamentalism in hotspots such as Algeria. Nato has hesitated to *intervene in places such as* Algeria, Kosovo or Cyprus, and has left the Italians to raise and lead a multinational force for Albania.

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French police face new riots over shootings

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH police were last night braced for a fresh outbreak of violence after a demonstration in support of one of two young men shot dead by officers last week.

The shootings sparked three days of riots in a suburb of Lyons and the outskirts of Paris, highlighting what President Chirac refers to as France's "social fracture".

In La Duchère, a district of Lyons, youths set cars alight and attacked police and firefighters after Fabrice Fernandez, a 24-year-old father of three, died in the local police station last week.

According to witnesses, Jean Cavalho, 40, an officer who has already been sanctioned twice for professional misconduct, pointed M Fernandez's own shotgun in his face and pulled the trigger, not realising it was loaded.

In an attempt to defuse local anger, the Lyons prosecution service altered the charges against M Cavalho from manslaughter to murder, and Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, called for calm.

But with the victim's family and friends organising a protest march last night, the authorities said that they expected the rioters to defy M Chevènement and continue their violent protest.

In Dammerie-les-Lys, east of Paris, two policemen were injured in the early hours yesterday, when a gang of youths threw petrol bombs from the roofs of high-rise buildings.

Riot police responded by firing teargas grenades, some of which blew out the windows of flats, forcing residents to flee into the street.

Violence in Dammerie-les-Lys exploded after police shot dead a local teenager, Abdelkader Bouziane, as he drove at speeds of up to 90mph through one police roadblock and tried to force a second last week.

The 16-year-old, in his mother's Volkswagen Golf, had driven through red lights and failed to stop when requested by police in a car, officers said.

His death brought dozens of people on to the streets for what is now a familiar sight in the poor, crime and unemployment-ridden suburbs of French cities: a confrontation between police and youths. The differences this time are the scale of the violence and apparent determination of the rioters to continue their action.

"But there are some factors that are always the same," said Hervé Vieillard Baron, a sociologist specialising in suburban decay. "Young people who have not worked for years are ready to explode. Family breakdown and personal problems combine with unemployment."

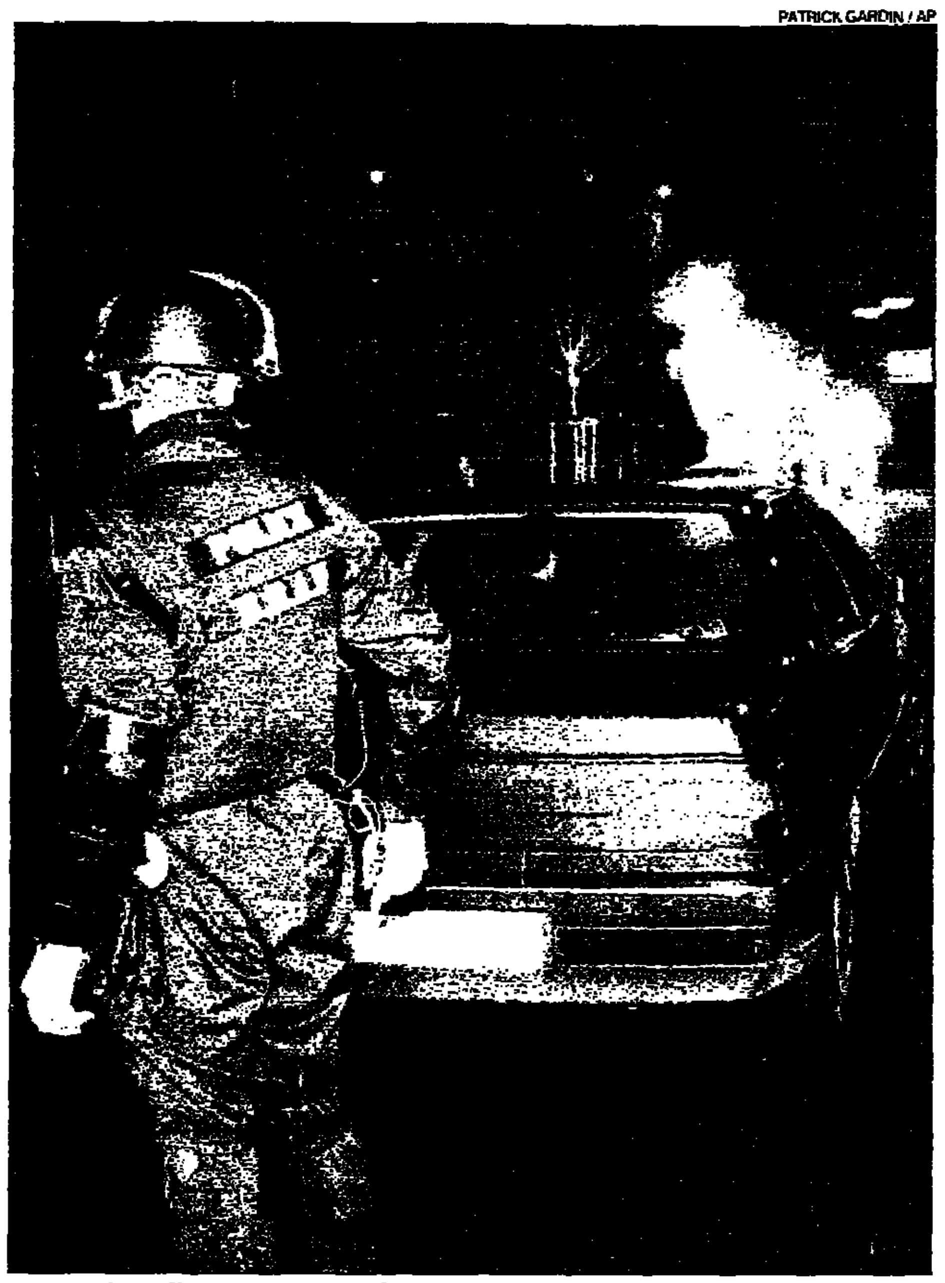
Commentators noted that the rioters in Dammerie-les-Lys were mostly of Arab origin, highlighting the difficulties of ethnic integration in French society.

The violence comes amid a fierce political row after a commitment by Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, to treat illegal immigrants with "humanity".

Centre-right politicians said that he had effectively abandoned the fight against illegal immigration.

However, other observers pointed out that M Fernandez was of French origin and the rioters in La Duchère were white. The Lyons suburb is poor, but does not have a large immigrant community.

PATRICK GARDIN / AP



A riot policeman in Lyons after protesters set fire to a car at the weekend

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ankara-Athens clash on spying

Ankara: Turkey and Greece yesterday announced tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats in a spy row that signals a worsening of their strained relations. Ankara said it had asked Athens to withdraw Efstratios Haralambus, a diplomat at the Greek Consulate in Istanbul, for "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomatic euphemism for spying.

The Turkish press had accused Mr Haralambus of gathering information on military installations and aiding Kurdish guerrillas. Greece denied the accusation and said it would expel a Turkish diplomat of equal rank. The countries have been at loggerheads recently about Cyprus, military tension in the Aegean Sea and Turkey's faltering attempts to join the European Union. *(Reuters)*

Letters, page 17

Rebel attack leaves 30 dead

At least 30 soldiers were killed, dozens injured and some taken hostage when left-wing guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) ambushed a remote southern army camp yesterday (Gabriella Gamini writes). Some 200 FARC rebels attacked the Cerro de Patascoy army camp at dawn while soldiers slept, according to an SOS message. The attack was believed to be in retaliation for violence by paramilitary groups backed by the army.

Jurists urge Tibet vote

Geneva: In a major setback to Beijing, the International Commission of Jurists declared that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a UN-run referendum to decide its status. In a 365-page report, the leading world jurists said Chinese Communist Party leaders had declared "total war" on the exiled Dalai Lama, and were also threatening to eradicate his influence. *(Reuters)*

Bond in wake of 'Titanic'

New York: *Titanic*, at $200 million (£120 million) the most expensive film ever made, grossed an estimated $27.6 million at the box office over its debut weekend in America, earning more than *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the new James Bond movie, also making its opening (Tunku Varadarajan writes). This is the first time a Bond film has failed to top ticket sales on its debut. The normally invincible 007 made $26 million.

Students jeer ex-Presidents

Seoul: Two corrupt former South Korean Presidents walked out of jail to jeers from students and cheers from their rich neighbours (Jennifer Veale writes). Police fired teargas to break up students chanting "No freedom for Chun [Doo-hwan] and Roh [Tae-woo]". Neighbours gave the pair a rapturous welcome.

Far East worries, page 22

Sharif rescues injured

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, right, the Pakistani Prime Minister, pulled three injured men from their wrecked vehicle after a fatal motorway crash on the Islamabad-Lahore motorway, the *Nation* newspaper reported. It said Mr Sharif instructed the driver of his official car to take the injured to Chakwal District Hospital, 20 miles away. One person died in the accident in which a vehicle hit a side wall. *(Reuters)*

Golden Gate death plunge

San Francisco: A girl, aged two, sightseeing on the Golden Gate Bridge with her parents and brother, aged four, slipped through a 9½in gap between the railing and pavement and plunged 180ft to her death. Her father failed in desperate attempts to reach her as she lay on a construction site. She was airlifted to a children's hospital, but died. *(AP)*

Sporting strife as Gallic teams give cock the bird

BY ADAM SAGE

FRENCH sport is facing increasing controversy over a decision to remove the cock, the country's national symbol, from the Olympic logo.

The move has split the sporting establishment and infuriated some of its top athletes, one of whom described it as outrageous.

Fiercely independent, stubborn and with a loud voice, *le coq* represents qualities that the French see as essential and historic parts of their nature. They are enchanted by its refusal to stop crowing, regardless of what is going on.

The Gallic equivalent of the British bulldog was an unofficial national symbol for hundreds of years before being made the official Olympic mascot in 1908. Virtually all national teams have at one time worn an embroidered cock on their shirts and supporters often take live ones to international matches. French television viewers never tire of seeing footage of a policeman chasing a Gallic cock around Twickenham at an England-France rugby match in the 1980s.

The World Cup cock

Jean Talbot, a senior French sports administrator, said that the cock was "the most remarkable animal because it carries on singing even when it is standing in dirt".

But the French National Olympic Committee has decided to abandon the cock and replace it by a logo representing the five Olympic rings and the word "France". The committee said the bird was in decline, with only 20 of the country's 93 national sports teams now using it.

The decision, made last week, sparked an angry backlash when made public at the weekend. Alain Mimoun, a former French marathon runner, declared: "For me, the cock is the true symbol of France. What they have done is outrageous, disgusting."

The bird, however, still has a future as a national symbol. The mascot for next year's football World Cup in France is a Gallic cock.

Sumatran 'Dr Death' on trial

Jakarta: The trial opened yesterday of Indonesia's "Dr Death", a self-proclaimed sorcerer who has been charged with killing 42 women over the past 13 years.

Ahmad Suradji allegedly confessed to the police that he murdered the women and drank their saliva in an attempt to increase his black magic powers.

Hundreds of people flocked to the court in the north Sumatran town of Lubukpakam to see the chained and heavily guarded 42-year-old traditional healer from the nearby village of Sei Semayang.

His killing spree is said to have began in 1984 after Suradji was told by his father in a dream that his sorcerer's powers would be greatly enhanced if he could drink the saliva of 70 dead women.

The long and short of US divorce case

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE, 6ft 8in tall, is suing his 5ft 4in wife for divorce, accusing her of subjecting him to cruel, inhuman treatment and physical and verbal abuse. Examples of "cruelty" cited in court documents include a "forced circumcision" and a "painful facelift".

Bjorn Aaserod, a Norwegian-born investment banker, also accuses his wife Michelle, a petite Georgia belle, of tricking him into a "sham marriage" to milk him of much of his wealth.

Mrs Aaserod, nine years younger than her 40-year-old husband, has filed a counterclaim in the Manhattan Supreme Court, accusing him of being a sexual pervert and serial adulterer.

Her terms for a divorce include all rights to the couple's six-storey townhouse in the Upper East Side of New York — worth at least $4 million (£2.5 million) — two Rolls-Royces, and half of her husband's fortune, thought to amount to about $40 million. She has also asked Judge Walter Tolub, who is deciding the case, to award her $55,000 a month until a settlement is reached.

Mrs Aaserod says she could not accept her husband's sexual perversities, which she claims included frequent sorties to brothels and strip clubs, and so many calls to sex lines that she had to block access to the numbers from their home.

Mr Aaserod describes his wife as a "gold-digger". He is seeking court protection from her, alleging that she has often threatened to kill him.

ADRIAN GEORGE

French dining: more abstemious

Parisians desert restaurants as London turns the tables

Adam Sage reports on increasing evidence that restaurateurs across the Channel are suffering from a shaky economy and lack of imagination

CULTURAL conservatism and economic difficulties have combined to produce a deepening crisis in French gastronomy, according to a survey published yesterday. The crisis has been described as symptomatic of a wider malaise in French society.

According to the survey, published by *Le Figaro*, 10 per cent fewer French people visited restaurants this year. Citing figures compiled by Gira Conseil, a specialist consultancy, the newspaper said those who did eat out spent less money, with only a few prepared to pay more than Fr200 (£20) for a three-course meal with wine and coffee.

The survey added weight to a widespread feeling in France that the country's capital is falling behind its British counterpart. "London explodes, Paris sleeps", is the headline in this week's issue of the magazine *L'Evénement du Jeudi*.

Joel Fleury, owner of the Grand Colbert brasserie in Paris, said the trend was the result of an economy unable to offer growth and employment. "The middle classes, even the upper middle classes, have a tight budget. They want value for money ... a good welcome, a good atmosphere and service and a correct meal," he said.

However, other restaurateurs said their troubles sprang from a failure to forge a path between Gallic traditions and modernisation. Jean-Paul Bucher, chairman of the Groupe Flo chain of brasseries, said: "Restaurants are like the rest of society. They are trying to find themselves."

After the nouvelle cuisine of the 1980s, chefs have returned to traditional recipes this decade, with such classic French dishes as pot-au-feu. But at a time when their counterparts elsewhere in the world are engaging in culinary adventure, Gallic cuisine can seem boring and insular, according to some food experts.

Kazuto Matsusaka, a Japanese-born chef who worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years before taking over at the Buddha Bar, one of Paris's most fashionable — and un-French — restaurants, said: "The French have an extraordinary history and there is no other country like this. But there is a sense in which they are too weighed down by their own culture and traditions. They have to open up and look at what's going on in the rest of the world."

French restaurants will serve about 2.5 billion meals this year, according to the survey, far more than those in most other countries, and the average French person will spend Fr2,850 on eating out. But in 1990 restaurants provided almost three billion meals. The figure has since fallen, with a particularly sharp drop this year.

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An anorexic at the feast

Christmas is fraught with stress for children with eating disorders. **Moira Petty** reports on how parents can cope in a time of crisis

Few of us need to be prompted to eat, drink and be merry at Christmas. For those suffering from eating disorders, though, the festive season can be a time of crisis.

The succession of rich meals and tempting snacks may only harden the resolve of the anorexic to avoid eating, while the bulimic may be plunged into a binge-vomit cycle.

Dysfunctional family relationships are at the heart of many eating disorders, so the traditional Christmas get together, which can switch rapidly from an occasion of celebration to one of confrontation, may be the cause of additional stress.

For the parents of children and teenagers suffering from anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa, Christmas and new year festivities will be fraught with anxiety. Those whose children are faddy eaters or fixated on dieting will be wondering how they can persuade them to eat normally without exacerbating the problem or spoiling celebratory meals for the rest of the family.

> 'In the old days, nobody was afraid of tucking into a good meal'

Dr Dee Dawson, medical director of Rhodes Farm Clinic in Mill Hill, northwest London, which treats children with eating disorders, offers the following advice on getting such children — and the whole family — through Christmas. Adults should look at the mixed messages that they send out about their own attitude to food. Christmas treats should be enjoyed without protestations of guilt, and gifts of food given without apology, not: "I've brought chocolates, is that OK?"

We should also show children, by our own example, what it is normal to eat. At Christmas that probably means more than we will eat at other times of the year. Many adults will take a tiny slice of cake, but "pick bits off in private, all afternoon", so that the child is given a false view of what the adult is eating. "Nor can you expect a child to eat roast potatoes if you're having a jacket potato without butter," she says.

Dr Dawson recommends not buying diet or reduced-calorie foods. If the child has eaten a hearty Christmas lunch and asks for a low-fat yoghurt, offer a non-diet yoghurt. "They're either hungry or they're not," she says. "We're becoming a nation of health-food fanatics. In the old days, nobody was afraid of tucking into a good meal."

Where anorexics are concerned, Dr Dawson is wary of giving "simplistic" advice. Therapy for the whole family is the mainstay when treating anorexics. But Dr Dawson advocates getting the anorexic child eating straight away and not being frightened of upsetting the Christmas bonhomie.

"We don't have the right to let children stay underweight. Feeding them will stop them getting ill, but psychologically they will still be anorexics," she cautions.

A feature of the families of most anorexics, says Dr Dawson, is that they avoid conflict at all costs and never express their true feelings. "A lot of treatment units will tell you not to worry about the eating until they've got the mind sorted out. We don't think you can afford to wait. Our approach is to be very confrontational and firm."

No matter that it is Christmas Day, the anorexic must be made to sit at the table until the plate is cleared. "Don't get into this battle until you know you're going to win. I've sat with patients all night until they've eaten.

"If you haven't been firm before, spell it out to them. Say 'Believe me, things have changed'. You mustn't give in halfway through the meal and say 'Just eat two of the potatoes'."

It is normal at Christmas lunch to have a choice of trimmings and puddings, but the anorexic must not be allowed any options. "You must serve their lunch and tell them that that is what they are eating. If they are thin, they need more food, not less."

Dr Dawson acknowledges that this may make Christmas meals uncomfortable for family and guests, but that is a small price to pay when faced with a life-threatening illness. One concession may be to limit the numbers at the table, as anorexics find it hard to eat in front of people.

Everyone present at the celebrations should be told of the problem and the strategy to be adopted. "Get them all on your side, or they'll undermine you. Grandma might say 'I didn't make you eat all your potatoes when you were little', or siblings will cry 'Don't be mean, Mum, it's Christmas'."

Getting the anorexic involved in the preparation of Christmas lunch is not a good idea. Anorexics are obsessed with all things culinary, and some very young children are wrongly allowed to take charge of family meals.

"Don't let them in the kitchen," says Dr Dawson. "If you let them assist you with the cooking, they'll have a fit about how much butter or cream is going in."

At Christmas, anorexics feel under greater stress because it is harder to practise their usual food-avoidance techniques, throwing away their packed lunch or claiming that they had eaten earlier. But just because it is Christmas, do not trust them or believe them when it comes to issues of food.

They must not be allowed a long list of foods that they claim to dislike. At Dr Dawson's Rhodes Farm Clinic, patients are allowed three foods that they will not eat: "But not chocolate and chips and butter because that is to do with calories and not real dislike."

ADVERTISING ARCHIVE

It is normal to have a choice at Christmas lunch but the anorexic must not be allowed options even though it may make the meal uncomfortable for others

The family should maintain the normal rituals of cracker-pulling and joke-telling at Christmas, but should be aware that the severely underweight child "will have no *joie de vivre*". They are supersensitive to disharmony in the family, so parents and relatives should avoid the niggling rows that sometimes erupt over Christmas. But arguments in which family members speak their minds and clear the air are healthy. Many anorexics secretly believe that shouting at their parents in anger, or slamming a door, will have tragic consequences, such as a parent having a heart attack.

Anorexia is a battle for control that can be averted by strong parenting. But Dr Dawson recommends that if children can be encouraged to eat at Christmas, they should be allowed some leeway in other areas. "Let them think they have some control over other parts of their lives. Let them choose what they wear to a Christmas party, or watch a lot of seasonal television — it's not going to harm them."

Christmas may be a time when parents spot the signs of anorexia because it is harder to disguise when the child cannot escape to eat alone in their own room. Signs include playing with their food, eating all of one item before moving on to another item, cutting the food into tiny pieces, removing the middle from pies, mashing food across the plate.

The average age of anorexics in Dr Dawson's unit is 13 and 14, although she has treated sufferers as young as six. Bulimics, who overeat and then purge themselves of the food or fast, tend to be in their late teens. The larger amounts of food around at Christmas can encourage them to binge, so they must not be allowed in the kitchen alone with the leftovers. "They will eat everything in sight, but there is so much food around that nobody will question it."

Bulimics should be made to go to the lavatory before they sit down to Christmas lunch so they will not need to go directly afterwards. Parents should be aware that gastric emptying in bulimics is often delayed, and they may vomit up to 2½ hours after the meal. They should be accompanied to the lavatory, the door left ajar, and the pan inspected before flushing as they are able to vomit silently.

Only 4 per cent of schoolchildren are truly overweight, but 60 per cent of teenagers talk about dieting. This may be more pronounced at Christmas because of the fattening foods on offer. Few teenagers actually lose weight, says Dr Dawson, so it may be all talk and no action. Even slightly podgy children do not need to diet, and puppy fat is a normal feature of puberty, Dr Dawson points out. "I wouldn't be concerned about a teenager who decided not to eat for two days. But if Christmas Day came and they were still not eating, I would worry, because this is not normal."

Regular menstruation is a sign that all is well, while younger children should be weighed if parents are concerned. Many children are preoccupied with their body image. When buying a Christmas party outfit, they may ask: "Do my legs look fat?"

"I tend to say to my lot 'This is a really boring conversation. I don't worry about the size of my friends' thighs, but how much fun they are'. I make it clear that I don't want to get into such a conversation. You can point out that bodies come in a range of sizes. Fashion models may be thin, but Page Three girls aren't and men like this variety," says Dr Dawson.

Exercise equipment would not be a suitable gift for a child trying unnecessarily to lose weight. A gentle walk with the family after lunch is sensible, but "not walking until the dog has no legs left", says Dr Dawson. "You should padlock a child's bicycle if they're going to be silly."

Faddy eaters can be a nuisance, but they are not medically at risk. Dr Dawson says: "I'd work hard to give them a balanced diet, but some children thrive on beans on toast. They usually grow out of it."

Parents should remember that they are the models for the child's eating habits. If, by Boxing Day, they are already planning their new year dieting regime, they should think about the effect this may have on the child.

Cash rolls in for Dorah

Generous readers bring hope to the brave little girl who defied death

LAST week *The Times* told the story of Dorah, a South African girl who was horribly burnt as a baby, abandoned by her mother and who may now lose her eyes. The response has been overwhelming. By yesterday — just six days after Bronwen Jones's article appeared — readers had sent £41,000 to help Dorah.

The reaction has been so generous that steps are being taken to set up a trust to help the three-year-old child Bronwen found in Springs hospital, near Johannesburg. The money will be used to get Dorah to a doctor who can help, or to get a doctor to her, and to train and pay for the carers she will need during treatment.

Several doctors have already expressed an interest in Dorah and are being sent her medical details. However, Bronwen and the trust would still like to hear from any other doctor who may be able to help. South African doctors feel that they have no option but to remove Dorah's eyes to prevent further infection. They hope that a doctor somewhere else in the world may have the knowledge and skills necessary to save her eyes.

Who will save this child?

Our article touched hearts

As well as sending money, many *Times* readers have written letters and sent e-mails to wish Dorah well — messages Bronwen has found profoundly moving.

"When I left Britain six years ago, I thought it was a heartless place, selfish and insular," she says. "This response has made me feel like hugging everyone. We need people like Dorah to remind us of our basic humanity."

● *Donations to help Dorah can be sent to Victor de Gray, Barclays Premier, 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 30299065, sort code 20-17-92. Cheques should be made payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Moekena. Bronwen Jones can be contacted by e-mail: riuafrica@icon.co.za. A SKY TV news report on Dorah can be seen tomorrow between 7 and 7.15pm and S and 8.15pm.*

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dyson dual cyclone TECHNOLOGY

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Between August 1994 and December 1996, Dyson Appliances Ltd published a leaflet entitled *The Story of the Dyson Dual Cyclone* and, during 1996, published a book entitled 'Doing a Dyson'. These publications wrongly stated that, in earlier patent litigation, "the American courts found in [Dyson's] favour, acknowledging that his patents had been infringed". This statement is false and is hereby retracted.

In recent publications, other parties have made statements concerning the outcome of the litigation. Any statements which might imply that Amway was found guilty of patent infringement are false. In fact, the litigation was settled.

Dyson Appliances Ltd and James Dyson, Chairman of Dyson Appliances Ltd, regret any negative effects these inaccurate statements may have had on Amway, its affiliates, customers, and independent distributors.

Don't get tired and emotional

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Father Christmas is not the only person who is up all night over the Christmas holiday. Unlike most revellers, he can sleep in next day, whereas partygoers will have to pretend to be bright and jolly.

Insomnia ranks with hangovers and indigestion as one of the major causes of emotional tension over the holiday period.

Families may not be as extended as they once were, but even now they are large enough to cause overcrowding in most people's homes. A night on a mattress on the floor is not conducive to sleep, and not the ideal way to prepare for a long and sometimes tense day.

Sleep may also be affected by the coughs and tears of children who have failed to settle into strange surroundings.

The British National Formulary, a joint publication of the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, offers advice and details of all medicines for doctors. It divides insomnia into three classes — transient, short term and chronic.

Transient insomnia describes sleeplessness in those who normally sleep well but find their sleep pattern is disturbed by travel or noisy fellow guests, whether crying children or snoring cousins. Short-term insomniacs are those whose sleeplessness is related to some passing emotional worry or temporary illness.

Chronic insomniacs rarely sleep well, whatever the circumstances. The problem may arise from depression — a symptom that occurs in 75 per cent of all those suffering from psychiatric disease, whatever the precise diagnosis.

It is also a side effect of many drugs and at Christmas time in particular can stem from over-indulgence in alcohol, thereby inducing sweating.

Sleeping pills may be useful to treat transient or short-term insomnia. They should not be used for more than two or three weeks at a time, and even then should be taken intermittently. Sleeping pills are of little use to chronic insomniacs other than to give them the occasional good night, although at Christmas they may feel they deserve such a treat. Barbiturates can be addictive and are rarely prescribed. Even those who take them should never mix them with alcohol. The short and medium-acting benzodiazepines, including Temazepam, have fallen into disrepute because they are subject to abuse.

Rohypnol, sometimes prescribed in Britain to induce sleep at odd hours, for example when flying, is the latest to be tried and found wanting by the media, but there is scant evidence to suggest that it is a commonly abused drug in this country.

It is not available on the NHS in Britain, but overseas it is taken as a sleeping pill by a million people every day and more open to abuse.

Its rapid elimination from the system makes it difficult to detect in criminal cases, but a detailed forensic analysis in America of a sample of 500 cases of drug-assisted sexual assault found traces of Rohypnol in only 1 per cent of cases — and in none of these was it the only drug given to the woman.

Alcohol was found to be the reason for the woman's incapacity to refuse sex in 20 times as many cases as Rohypnol, and cannabis was almost as often to blame. Cocaine was also found in conjunction with other drugs. So far there have not been any proven cases of Rohypnol-associated rape in this country, and in future it will be more difficult to disguise. An extra ingredient is to be added to the tablet that will make it less soluble and will turn any drink royal blue.

A more common reason for not prescribing short or intermittent benzodiazepines is that they produce some residual ill effects the following day, and long-acting benzodiazepines such as Mogadon and Dalmane cause drowsiness.

Sleeping pills of choice are now Zimovane zopiclone and its rival Stilnoct zolpidem. Both drugs are less likely to cause hangovers or sleepiness on waking, or to give such heavily dream-laden sleep as the older sleeping pills.

Any form of sleep-inducing medicine is considered medically undesirable in children. However, the situation can be so dire that some doctors prescibe Phenergan, an antihistamine, but they cause bad temper in a high number of cases.

I have always preferred Atarax, another anti-histamine that is usually prescribed for children with severe itching. The drug is not given to babies under six months.

ARTS

Richard Cork on a newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity
Pages 28-29

LACOSTE

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

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Think you can pull women? Pull the other one

Most men are dreadful at chatting up women. But a study of female body language can put an end to flirting with disaster, says **Joe Joseph**

Men have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that they no longer say anything

Hi there, Hotlips! I noticed you the minute you turned over to this page, and I was wondering if maybe you and I could go some place quiet and chat a little about why it is that men have become so hopeless at flirting and . . . hey, where are you going? You haven't finished your drink. Can I call you tomorrow?

You see how bad it's got? And so quickly, too. It wasn't that long ago that a well-brought-up man wouldn't dream of approaching a strange woman at a party with a sentence as clumsy as: "You're the only girl here I fancy jumping into bed with!" — because he would know instinctively that the proper form in such circumstances is: "You're the only girl *with whom* I fancy jumping into bed!" But don't blame men for this sad slip in standards. They have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that many of them no longer say anything at all.

Nowadays most men, according to scientists at Stanford University in California, are just too shy to flirt. Kate Fox, director of the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford, says that part of this fear of flirting "is caused by overzealous political correctness, which has come out of concerns about sexual harassment". Men who were once bewitched are now merely bothered and bewildered by the whole flirting ritual. Some of them are so bewildered that they have completely lost their touch. When the magazine *Maxim* asked its readers what they felt when they saw women laughing, nearly a third thought the women were laughing at them. Not even *with*, mind you, but *at*.

Naturally, all this implies that men were once the top dogs of flirting and have only recently lost the hang of the thing: this partly explains why they have been so jolted by the turning of the tables. But the truth is that men have never really *had* the hang of the flirting thing. It is women who flirt.

Certainly, it is women who flirt with any degree of consistent success. This is because men will flirt with anybody. Actually, with any*thing*. Playing hard to get is not a dominant male trait. Some men will flirt with any woman still standing upright at the end of a party: others see no reason to limit their options this way. A man, if desperate enough, will flirt with a watermelon.

Women, having started flirting but then decided that they have mischosen their target, will retreat gracefully. Men, on the other hand, having located a responsive woman, are pretty much impossible to deter. Nothing puts them off. If a woman starts chatting up a handsome man but then finds that he sweeps out pigsties for a living, she might think twice. Compare this to the average man who — on discovering that the woman he is trying hard to seduce regularly robs banks while armed with an Uzi — will barely miss a beat ("Oh, so tell me, what are you doing after you rob Barclays next Tuesday? Fancy some dinner?").

Of course, one big genetic handicap for men is their inability to interpret a woman's sexual body language. If she is attractive enough, men are so blind with desire they can barely register her verbal language (*Woman:* "See this knife? Unless you get lost, I'm going to poke it into your chest." *Man:* "Oh, is it sharp enough? Shall I fetch you a sharpener from the kitchen?")

This is why most men have such a sorry hit rate. Women usually flirt to win. When men think they have flirted successfully, it is often only because they have chanced on a woman who is flirting assiduously with *them*.

Are you still surprised that a recent study by the Harris Research Centre found that only 8 per cent of British men have any confidence at all in their flirting abilities? Wait, there's something even more embarrassing: 90 per cent of men can't even tell if they are being chatted up.

The explanation for this probably lies in the fact that men fondly assume that chatting up involves at least a minimal level of conversation, whereas women chat up men with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective even though they are barely detectable by the human eye, and which, when executed clumsily, can make a woman appear to have a rare combination of severe conjunctivitis and fleas.

To men, "What do you like for breakfast?" is a relatively sophisticated chat-up line (relative to "Blimey! Are those real, luv?"). Both of these, however, are still a long way from the three words that American researchers found fell most sweetly on a woman's ear, which turned out to be "You've lost weight". This is why women prefer to flirt with their mouths closed, in the hope that men might learn to do the same.

The trouble is that men misunderstand almost all the vocabulary of female body language. Here, for example, are some familiar female gestures and what they mean to men and women:

(a) Hesitant smile. *Woman's meaning*: I hope he doesn't come over and talk to me. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(b) Hair flick. *Woman's meaning*: I must get my fringe cut. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(c) Skirt hike. *Woman's meaning*: Damn! My tights have laddered. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies a threesome with me and Simon.

(d) Hand hold. *Woman's meaning*: I'm beginning to feel woozy. I hope I don't throw up on the jacket of this jerk I'm leaning against. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(e) Raise eyebrows. *Woman's meaning*: My left contact has popped out. *Man's interpretation*: She fancies me.

(f) Feign vomiting as man approaches. *Woman's meaning*: Don't bother coming another step nearer, mister. *Man's interpretation*: She's a lesbian.

But there is no use just criticising men. We must offer them a way to discover whether they are among the many males who have got the wrong end of the flirting stick. That way we can then steer them towards a less oafish, more profitable approach. As a first step, men should do the following questionnaire to assess how much remedial treatment they actually require:

1. I admire a woman who looks . . . (a) for the good points in others; (b) to her laurels; (c) both ways before crossing a busy road; (d) available

2. I think that it's best to tell a woman . . . (a) that you like to kiss on the first date; (b) that you are a married man; (c) that you like the scent she is wearing; (d) by her chest size

3. I tend to be most successful with girls who are . . . (a) lawyers; (b) teachers; (c) nurses; (d) desperate

4. Er, Katie — it is Katie, isn't it? — I'd really like to see you in . . . (a) a taxi home; (b) a day or two; (c) court; (d) a nurse's outfit

5. I like a woman who pours out . . . (a) her heart; (b) her troubles; (c) her own drinks; (d) of her dress

6. Many men when they see a woman wearing a see-through blouse stare straight at her breasts. I know . . . (a) this is ungentlemanly; (b) this is vulgar; (c) this embarrasses her; (d) I certainly do

7. Because of my dress sense, I often appear in . . . (a) Armani; (b) Versace; (c) Calvin Klein; (d) women's nightmares

8. It doesn't bother me if the girl I'm chatting up is not . . . (a) under 25; (b) a virgin; (c) pretty; (d) awake

But don't go thinking that just because a man might be faulty at flirting, he doesn't have someone who is very special to him, someone he refers to, romantically, as "the girl of my dreams". Sometimes she's a blonde; sometimes a woman he first set eyes on in the office lift; sometimes she's the woman from the dry cleaner's; but whoever she is, she's usually unaware that he even exists.

SUPERSTOCK

Women chat men up with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective

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I'd rather be a super mum than a superwoman

Actress Teri Hatcher is giving up work to be with her baby. **Claire Roberts**, who also swapped champagne buckets for nappy pails, offers her moral support for the difficult time ahead

PA

Teri Hatcher: her decision was prompted by the Louise Woodward case

She has been Superman's girlfriend and James Bond's bedmate. They seem hard acts to follow, but not for Teri Hatcher, the actress. She has just announced that she is giving up dabbling with silver-screen superheroes to be a hands-on mother to her month-old daughter, Emerson Rose.

Going to film premieres in designer gowns and being adored by Hollywood hunks seems a million miles away from wandering around in your dressing gown, with the only adoring gaze coming from a milky-mouthed infant. But good luck to her. It is never a decision taken lightly when you have a well-established career. I should know.

I have never dabbled with superheroes and was only a lowly national newspaper fashion editor when, five years ago, I decided to go freelance to spend more time with my daughter. I had gone back to work when Jessica was three months old, outwardly determined to fight the fight of working mothers and prove it was *all* possible.

I was going to report on the fashion collections four times a year and be the perfect mother at the same time. Milan, London, Paris, New York, Chiswick play group. No sweat. But inwardly, from the first anguished day of leaving Jessica with a nanny, I knew I had got it all wrong. Stupidly, it took me almost two years and three nannies to make the break, to opt for the "good life" in a remote Cornish farmhouse and to work freelance only when immediate family could care for Jessica, now seven, and later my second daughter, Louella, four.

When I announced to colleagues that I was leaving work I received a mixed response (as I am sure Teri Hatcher did from her celebrity girlfriends). Some women looked at me as though I had gone mad: they were certain that I was about to swap my Whistles power suit for a kaftan and my Manolo Blahnik heels for leather flipflops. Others whispered that it was the right move and just what they would do in the same situation.

Like my old office, the world of working mothers is divided. There are those like Teri Hatcher, 33, who are prepared to make life changes. It is not an easy option, particularly for women who have waited until their thirties to have children. Any woman who has had a career, earned a reasonable wage and been independent will find giving all that up is almost as big a wrench as leaving the baby with a nanny. By the time the baby arrives, working women have got used to a comfortable standard of living. Being able to slip out at lunchtime to buy that silk shirt you have had your eye on or splashing out on a bottle of Moët on the way home are addictive treats.

This is exactly what Liz Tom misses. Eight years ago, aged 30, she gave up her champagne lifestyle to become a full-time mother.

"Mine is a typical riches to rags story," she laughs. "My partner and I not only gave up our £100,000 joint salaries but also our London life because we wanted to bring up our children without nannies in Cornwall."

Liz struggled to work as a £500-a-day management trainer for a year after having her daughter, Gosel, before she conceded that the juggling act was impossible. "Working with a baby was one of the most stressful times of my life," she recalls. "I was rushing out at coffee breaks to breastfeed Gosel in a room where my baby and nanny were installed. It wasn't worth it." Liz, who now has a third baby, 11-month-old Ezeld, is certain that she made the right decision, although she still resents the lack of money.

Of course, Teri Hatcher will not be describing her lifestyle as riches to rags eight years on. With a wealthy TV producer husband, a £1 million mansion in the Hollywood Hills and a healthy bank account, money will not be Ms Hatcher's big worry. "I just feel lucky I can afford to stay at home," says the actress whose life-changing decision was prompted by the case of Louise Woodward, the British au pair convicted of manslaughter in America after the death of a child in her care.

What might get to Ms Hatcher, though, is the lack of status attached to motherhood. I know from experience that if I had given up work completely when I handed in my notice, I would be a basket case by now. Five years later, I realise how sexy the status of working women can be. When I was a fashion editor, being sent presents by designers and beauty companies was an everyday perk. Being fawned over by PRs was a tiresome interruption to my work. Now a bit of fawning from anyone in between school runs and tea parties would not go amiss. And men, despite all the intensive training designed to make them "new", still talk to working women — their equals — in a more animated and interested way.

Then there are the women who could afford to give up work and look after their children but categorically do not want to. Nicola Horlick, the City high-flyer, springs to mind. She may have been dubbed "Superwoman" but in the eyes of most mothers she is anything but. Worse still — try working for these women and you will find that they expect as much from their female employees as they give themselves. "If I am not at home to put my children to bed, nor will you be," seems to be their motto.

They kid themselves, constantly saying that their children are stimulated by having six different au pairs in three months and that they could not do the child-rearing as well as a woman who has been trained as a nanny. They also trot out that tired old expression "quality time", which most women recognise as a feeble excuse that no longer convinces anyone, least of all their children.

Then there is another category: women who would like to give up work but cannot. Many working mothers leave their home each morning knowing that they should throw the company car keys down the drain and take over the care of their precious baby. In some cases they work because of genuine financial need; in others it is because of a fear of the unknown. Play group meetings and coffee mornings with women they cannot relate to can seem intimidating, and I know of one woman whose husband will not let her stop work because he is worried she will vegetate at home. These women deserve far more sympathy than those who say they will give up work but never do.

We have all been to dinner parties where there is a high-powered working mother who claims that babies do not need their mothers as much as toddlers do. She will give up work when her son is two, she says. Two years on and she is still working, but now she claims that school-age children need their parents far more than toddlers. She will give up work when her son is five. The deadlines continue to be extended until she claims that the most important time for children to have their mother's full attention is when their latchkey offspring are doing their A levels. By this time the little son is a big son and cannot think of anything worse than his mother cramping his style, so she carries on working because "she is no longer needed at home".

I have no doubts that Teri Hatcher has made the right decision, but if she thinks she has taken a straightforward option, she has a rough ride ahead. As Liz Tom puts it: "You feel guilty working as a mother, but you also feel guilty not contributing to the family income and not fulfilling your potential. In short, you can't win."

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Don't punish the needy, Mr Blair

Conrad Russell on the injustice in Labour's welfare reform

It was apparent well before the election that Tony Blair intended to finance health and education by reducing the social security budget. There is nothing wrong with that: for most of the Conservative years, social security was both the biggest and the fastest growing area of government spending. Any new government would have wanted to change that.

What is now clear is that Mr Blair believes he can reduce the social security budger by changing the social security system. That is a bad case of shooting the messenger. The social security budget is demand led, and therefore largely outside the department's control. People become a charge because they are in need and if social security does not take the strain, it tends to fall on the budgets of other ministries.

By far the biggest item in the social security budget is pensions, and the biggest cause of increase in pensions spending is that we are living longer. Governments would be ill-advised to try to put this change into reverse. And tinkering at the margins which divide public from private provision does nothing to reduce the cost to society. The second cause of increased spending is growing social sensitivity to disability. This is the mark of a civilised society, and any government which tries to reverse it is unlikely to enjoy a second term. The third cause is relationship breakdown. Parliament has accepted reluctantly that it is beyond the Government's power to reverse this change: herein the patients must minister to themselves.

The fourth cause of increased demand is growth in unemployment and under-employment. Under-employment, for these purposes, can be defined as employment at rates which need to be supplemented by in-work benefits. This is the only cause of increased demand which is under government control. But not under the control of the Department of Social Security. The case of housing benefit is an example. The underlying problem is that many people earn too little to pay market rents. This used to be met by subsidies from the Department of the Environment. The subsidies now come through social security, so one of the biggest apparent increases in social security spending is simply a transfer from another department.

Recent attempts to restrict housing benefit seem to be having the effect that people cannot afford to be housed, and so cannot work. This is the Treasury shooting itself in the foot. If social security does not meet the need, the need does not go away.

Whenever the cost of poverty has become burdensome, attempts have been made to blame the poor for unemployment as an excuse for not relieving them. One Essex village in the reign of Charles II even stigmatised its poor by making them wear a yellow star. Where Tudor England used to blame "sturdy beggars", we now blame "welfare dependency". There were always a few anecdotal cases to sustain this myth but when the economy picked up, they always seemed to disappear. Welfare benefits are now far too low to encourage "welfare dependency".

None of this is to say that the welfare state does not need change. The basic idea of Welfare to Work is good. The Taylor review, which is trying to remove poverty traps, was badly needed, and Liberal Democrats wish it well. Welfare to Work is to be praised for creating opportunity and fur giving a chance to acquire skills, whose lack accounts for most vacancies which remain unfilled for any length of time.

What must be stressed is that if all this is to be successful, it must be ancillary to changes in the real economy. Welfare to Work offers employability, not employment and will succeed only if jobs are available. To that end, rebuilding the London Tube, or lowering the value of the pound, would contribute far more than anything the Department of Social Security can do. Removing poverty traps, as Liberal Democrats found when costing our manifesto, is not a cheap strategy. It cannot be done as a cost-cutting exercise.

We must beware the danger that Welfare to Work may turn into a form of peacetime conscription. Youth training, which seems to be the model for much of Welfare to Work, is a salutary warning. There, refusal of any training place has been punished by total denial of benefit. When we get cases such as the asthmatic who was offered training as a painter, this is as inefficient as it is unjust. Denial of benefit does more to fill the prisons and the hospitals than it does to fill the job centres, and it is not a cheap option. The right to refuse a job is an essential safeguard of the free market. Welfare reform must not destroy that right, or the power of the employer will become absolute.

These safeguards are even more important when the Government talks of helping the disabled to work. The ambition is laudable, and Professor Stephen Hawking is a reminder of what can be achieved. What must be understood is that between the able-bodied and the disabled, there is a very long spectrum. Most can do some jobs, but the final judgment of which ones must rest with the disabled themselves.

This is not constitutional reform: this time there can be no Liberal Democrat collaboration. We fought the last election against Labour's welfare proposal. We want to reduce the cost of the welfare state, but by creating jobs, not by cutting benefits. We want to help people off benefit, but by creating opportunities not by starving them into submission. We are not in the business of running the benefit office on the River Kwai. When they set up their working party, Labour will be on their own. Indeed, it seems Mr Blair will be on his own.

Lord Russell is social security spokesman for the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.

God bless the deadline

From the Dome to the Christmas dinner, we all need to be set a target

Libby Purves

A strange and mighty wonder: through these pages on Saturday Simon Jenkins very nearly got me cheering for the Dome. I have been a cynic about the thing from the outset: too late, too vague, too wasteful, too naff to love. With every successive outburst about how we must call it an "Experience" and look out for the "Euan Factor", my heart sank.

Besides, I travel often into historic Greenwich just up the river, where I once lived and still haunt the National Maritime Museum. This brings on twinges of rage and dismay that this place — England's Versailles, if only something decent could be done with the Naval College — should be handled piecemeal and meanly while up the road a niffy old gasworks site is paved with Lottery gold.

There are also twinges of doubt over getting these millions in: approaches to Greenwich are sabotaged daily by the railway service, the Blackwall Tunnel, the Docklands Intermittent Railway and the Old Kent Road. They will have to be pretty quick to solve that one.

But I dunno. Commissioner Jenkins bravely defended the magnificent conception and the £450 million. He said its insides would sweep us up and show us a far horizon: that there would be Time in there, and human aspiration and a huge body with veins and arteries and a Tower of Serious Play and a Valley of Ladders. On Sunday it was further revealed that Mr Stephen Bayley promises "a forest of virtual headsets", an exhibit explaining the future meaning of body, mind, and soul (er, what?), some stuff borrowed from the British Museum, big magnets, and a mascot designed by Damien Hirst to symbolise the new Britain. A very large model pickled cow, perhaps, with giant walk-through spongiform brain.

Sorry, sorry. Any exhibition sounds ridiculous in preview: Simon Jenkins is quite right to quote Burke on the "presumptuous judgment of the ignorant", and unlike the querulous Mr Kaufman I am cheerfully content to stay ignorant until opening day. The reason for my sudden Christmassy benevolence towards the Big Bubble has nothing to do with these tantalising glimpses of its contents. It is all in one obvious but vital statement Simon Jenkins makes about the displays. "Above all," he wrote, "*they must be ready on time* ... The dome is both about time and about a race against time."

Suddenly I toss up my hat, punch the air and say "Yes!" I suddenly see the pleasure of the Millennium Dome. It has to be ready on time, or it is pointless. Even if, as evil gossips say, it is manned by doubters and squabblers it has a huge asset — the most invigorating, inspiring asset of all, the one sure guarantee of teamwork and decisiveness and excitement. *It has an unbreakable deadline.* If they don't finish on time they might as well never have started. The show must go on. There is no alternative.

And at this season we can all raise a glass to that and wish the Domies luck. We can sympathise. We know how it is with big deadlines. Christmas Day is rolling towards us, and those who mark it want to mark it well. We want the food right, the presents right, the beds made, wine mulled, the decorations up, the cards sent, the visits accomplished. We want everything swept and garnished.

But there will be no point in any of it if we miss the deadline. You can't put off Christmas Day, or buy crackers when there's nobody left to pull them with. There is no point getting the guest room perfect when the guests have been and gone, or filling stockings two days after the children have found them empty. So in these last hectic days, we Christmas-makers hurtle from shop to stove to freezer, Sellotape in our hair and pine-needles in our underwear, as bent on meeting our immutable deadline as any Dome designer.

And what effect does this have? Apart, that is, from holly lacerations caused by bringing down a variegated wreath on your head with a wildly flourished roll of wrapping-paper, and the hernia caused by lunging to save the tree when the dog knocks it over in its attempts to escape having a pair of polystyrene antlers fixed to its head?

I will tell you. This stress, this need to finish, is the fastest teacher of efficiency there is. The glorious thing which a real, immovable deadline does is to improve your skills in management. There is no need for droning lecturers to tell you about prioritisation or time-management: you do it for very survival. Sluggards become lively, and the chronically indecisive make snap decisions.

Say you are a working woman with Christmas duties atop the rest: well, the house plainly cannot be both swept and garnished in the time, so you just garnish like mad and trust (as in their way, the Domesters must) that tinsel overhead distracts from crunched-up pinecones and mince pies underfoot. You light candles and turn the lights off to camouflage dust, toss ivy over unironed tablecloths and spike the mulled wine of censorious relatives. You give up the idea of wrapping presents tidily because there are 83 presents to wrap, counting stockings: you scrunch and twist instead. You glance at the clock and the calendar and decide that while indeed a home-made stuffing and Delia Smith cranberry confit would be nice, a packet and a jar will hit the deadline.

If, like me, the approach of the sacred day involves turning your study back into the guest bedroom but you are still hammering the computer as the guest is hammering at the door, you leap up, unfold the Z-bed, hurl a festively red sheet over the chaos of the desk (possibly topping it with holly for luck) and feign a bright welcoming smile. Then, with the artifice of despair, you offer to put on a nice video for the said guest so you can nip into their room and type on surreptitiously under the sheet.

My husband takes an even more audacious line: when there is some household project looming he always starts it three weeks before Christmas so that it "has" to be finished on time. One year he ripped strands of old wallpaper off, making the house so repulsive that he had to repaper it or die of shame. This year he knocked a huge hole in the wall of the only room big enough to seat 14 Christmas diners and filled it with evil brick-rubble. It had to be sorted out, so it has been. Just. Or should be, by tonight.

Any rush, any chaos, any impossible striving is justified by a deadline. For journalists, but also for anybody who regularly fulfils non-negotiable orders or gets onstage for the first night, an unmissable deadline is both stimulus and release. It even enjoins a certain humility. If you don't get the article right by six, or the act together by curtain-up, there is nothing more you can do. Either it goes in imperfect or not at all. In handing it over, you admit both your effort and your fallibility.

The Dome team will have to do that come 2000 and that alone gives them a certain dignity. The thing cannot be unfinished, so it must be pulled together somehow. Like Christmas.

There should be more of these deadlines in public life. Think of all the things which consensus says should be done: in education, in the penal and judicial systems, in the infrastructure and environment and the protection of children in care. But there are no deadlines, no magical millennial dates to meet, so everything is flabby.

We make excuses, talk ourselves into pompous inertia, set up public inquiries and royal commissions, wait months and years for their conclusions and then put those to parliamentary committees and working parties so we can debate them and push them around a bit and get nothing much done at all. Sometimes we create artificial deadlines by the ridiculous modern management tic of "target-setting", knowing all the time that the targets and goalposts can be moved and cheated freely, and undoubtedly will be by the time the next election comes round, everything stops and changes, and we can start doing nothing all over again.

No: from a heap of unwrapped presents beneath a rickety tree, I salute that great force for good: the deadline. I wish all who meet it, in however ramshackle a manner, a merry Christmas.

Or at least, a more or less complete one.

Why I believe in Jacob

David Selbourne defends his mystery manuscript

Recently I translated the manuscript of a merchant, Jacob of Ancona, who set sail for the East in 1270 and arrived in China a year before Marco Polo. But since the owner of the manuscript will permit no further access to the work lest his anonymity be broached, the appearance of my translation *The City of Light* has been a turbulent event.

The book has been greeted by some as a hoax, a political satire worthy of a Montesquieu or a Swift, even a plot by the Left to discredit me. Folly and error of judgment have marked the reviews.

That the book is also a Jewish work of piety, containing an account of historic Jewish tribulation and defiance as well as an excoriation of Christian "idolatry", has, for whatever reason, barely been mentioned. Yet if there were still a Vatican Index, it would surely be placed on it.

The manuscript's owner — who is himself not Jewish and not an inhabitant of Urbino, where I live — first approached me about it in 1990. Why me? Because my interest in Judaica, including the history of medieval Jewry in Italy, was known to him, and because I was not Italian, yet within reach. Only those familiar with Italian *mores* could understand the mistrust, often justified, in which Italians hold one another, while Italian scholarship is a byword for bad faith, corruption, and indolence. By contrast, the Englishman will generally be considered, rightly or wrongly, as trustworthy in keeping a pledge, as non-materialistic and as hardworking.

As to the essential authenticity of the Ancona manuscript — pending access to it by others better qualified than I — and the genuine purposes of its owner in wanting its contents translated into English, I have not been in doubt. I worked on it intermittently for several years at the owner's house, neither permitted to take it from his premises, nor to take samples or photographs of it, on the (mistaken) grounds that it would lead to the provenance of the manuscript and the present owner's identity becoming known to all.

A considerable amount, perhaps a fifth or sixth of the original, largely Tuscan, Italian — there are also Hebrew exclamations, encomia to God and Talmudic citations — was incorporated in my notes and translation as I went along. These were words, idiomatic phrases, proper names and philosophical terms which I wished to study further in lexicons and works of reference. I incorporated most of these words and phrases into the text of my translation, placing them in square brackets. The British publishers, Little, Brown, struck them out in the editing process, but they had been provided as an earnest, in the interim, of the authenticity of the text. A very small proportion of them remains in the notes. No reviewer, so far as I recall, has remarked on them.

Instead, cabal-like pressures, originating in American academia, have been exerted against Little, Brown in America, the holders of subsidiary rights in my translation. A kind of scholarly fatwa has been pronounced against it, compromising freedom of publication (and intellectual freedom) in the very land of the free. The British publishers are made of sterner stuff, as are other publishers worldwide, whose translators are hard at work on the text.

Yet, in England also, risky libels about a "fake" have been spread; scholarship has pronounced upon the supposed anachronism of a single word; the manuscript has been described as "too long". I have been informed from the pulpits of academia that, although Jacob of Ancona categorically mentions them, there were no wheeled carriages in the great city of Zaitun (Quanzhou) which he visited, no saffron, no opium — although medieval Chinese pharmacopoeias mention it — and even no sex or sexual aberration, although Jacob gives an account of both.

I have been unblushingly told, too, in a broadcast exchange with an English critic, that the Chinese of 13th-century Zaitun would have had "great difficulty" in communicating with each other in oral speech, so that the moral and political debates which Jacob describes could not have taken place — a proposition laughed to scorn by Chinese scholars.

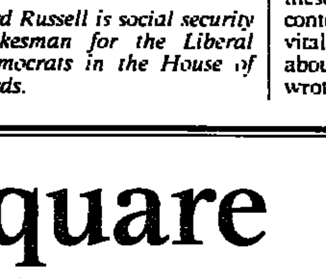
That the conditions under which I worked on the translation would cause difficulty I anticipated. But I did not expect that mere opinion and supposition would be presented as counter-facts, nor the false assumption made that what today's academics do not know — or did not know until they read the Ancona manuscrit — could not be knowledge. Thus far, only the pointing out of one serious typographical error about a Jewish fast will be of service for future editions.

In sum, Jacob's tale, like Marco Polo's, stands, legitimate and spurious doubts notwithstanding. However assailed, the Ancona argosy sails on, to the discomfiture of critics and the delight of readers. Like Marco Polo, Jacob of Ancona lives.

The author is the translator of Jacob of Ancona's The City of Light. *Little, Brown.*

Old square

ANTHONY TROLLOPE, I can reveal, was a Freemason. The author, who put Barsetshire on the literary map and consoled John Major during some of the worst moments of his premiership, joined the secret society in the early 1840s. Experts on Trollope have been unaware of his membership. But my revelation confirms the suspicions of most Masons, who have for many years considered him one of theirs because of his use of ritual phrases in his books. Trollope's membership came to light during a recent sale at Sotheby's of his papers. These included three Masonic certificates, one signed by the Duke of Leinster, issued to him by the Grand Lodge in Dublin between 1842 and 1846. Also on sale was what is believed to be Trollope's Masonic apron.



Trollope, Glendinning

The author had been transferred to Ireland in 1841 as a rather lowly Post Office clerk, and Victoria Glendinning, who has written a famous biography, thinks he may have signed up as a means of getting to know people. "Others join nightclubs or gyms," she says. "Perhaps it was a form of networking." John Letts, chairman of the Trollope Society, concurs: "He was making a rather earnest effort to establish himself as a respectable citizen and escape what he called his *hobb le de hoy* past, in other words being a slob."

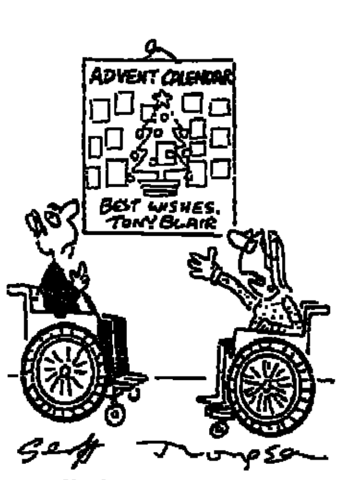
Exhaustive research into Trollope's life has failed to reveal his Masonic past because, like a good member, he made no reference to the group in his correspondence or private letters. But he did hint at it in his writing, employing phrases such as "third degree", "acting on the level" and "being square". I shall now browse my battered *Barchester Towers* or *Phineas Finn* with added interest.

● *FILM and tourism minister Tom Clarke is curiously camera shy. On a bracing visit to Barnsley's legendary Elsecar Heritage Centre, the minister became bristly when a snapper attempted to immortalise the moment. A haughty handler stepped in to shoo the wretch away. The explanation? "Please can you not take photos while he is talking. It'll confuse him," revealed a ministerial aid. Let's hope Clarke does not find his dual portfolio equally problematic.*

Loud mouths

WHEN they worked as government information officers, they kept their mouths shut as much as possible. After losing their jobs, they cannot keep quiet. Liz Drummond is the latest of at least six victims of a Labour-inspired purge and, like some of her predecessors, has vented her spleen publicly. Drummond, who quit as head of information at the Scottish Office after "difficulties" with Donald Dewar, has written a vitriolic attack on the powers that be in today's *Parliamentary Review* magazine. "Slick presentation cannot compensate for an absence of policy. 'Good news' gimmicks will not distract the media or the electorate for long," she whines. "PR puffery is no substitute for truth." But after many years working in Whitehall, does the good Ms Drummond know the difference?

● *RATHER than calling in an exorcist to determine the identity of the much-publicised ghost haunting Peterhouse, perhaps the Cambridge dons should look no further than the undergraduates who used to commandeer the Combination Room for their dining clubs. "We were all banned from having dinners there after the Cocoa Tree Club met there last year and smashed a few plates," says a junior mortar-board. "Some of the chaps decided to upset the dons by pretending it was haunted."*

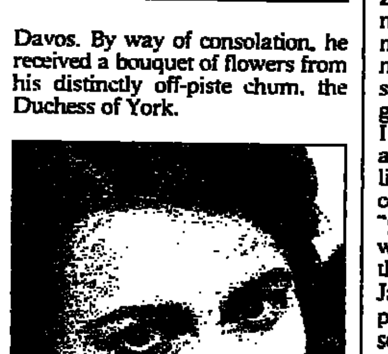


"*All of the doors slam in your face*"

Slip up

THE Prince of Wales's new year jaunt to Klosters with his sons — aimed at raising the morale of the young princes — has already hit a mogul: his favourite ski instructor, Bruno Sprecher, has been put in hospital with a knee injury.

Sprecher, 42 — a jovial, bearded sort of chap — has been as regular a feature of the Prince's skiing hols as a fondu. The instructor was with the Prince during the avalanche in 1988 which killed his friend, Major Hugh Lindsay. Sprecher could be out of action for at least two seasons after tearing several knee ligaments. "I was looking forward to skiing with Princes William and Harry so as to bring a little joy back to their lives after the tragic death of their mother," winced Sprecher from his hospital bed in Davos. By way of consolation, he received a bouquet of flowers from his distinctly off-piste chum, the Duchess of York.



Helena: common touch

● *ENDEARINGLY, Helena Bonham Carter insists she is rather below stairs. "Just because my great-grandfather was Prime Minister, everyone wrongly assumes I am irredeemably posh," she told me yesterday, as critics murmur approval for her latest effort,* The Wings of the Dove. *"All PMs get gongs. Blair certainly will and he's not posh."*

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الإصل

Why I believe in Jacob
David Selbourne

SELECTIVE CULL

The past and future of the British beef industry

It was an unfortunate but entirely apt reflection on the BSE affair that Jack Cunningham's statement to the House of Commons yesterday should be delayed by an inexplicable technical malfunction. The same combination of error and uncertainty has been present throughout this fiasco. The Minister for Agriculture recovered — rather better than the beef industry — to offer a brief statement that was wide-ranging and broadly persuasive. His department has hardly been in the forefront of truly open government and the belated arrival of the searchlight of scrutiny, under the charge of Lord Justice Phillips, must be welcomed.

The case for a searching inquiry — but not a partisan kangeroo court — is powerful. The whole BSE melodrama has been an extraordinary and exceptionally expensive story. The unfortunate truth is that neither the events themselves nor the expense have reached their conclusion. It might be argued that the allocation of blame for the BSE crisis is either impractical or irrelevant. However, the restoration of confidence (or not) in the beef industry requires much firmer responses to questions that have been asked but rarely answered. Without a credible investigation from an independent source, baseless rumour will displace fact and partial interpretation eclipse dispassionate analysis.

There would, at this stage, seem to be three candidates for public contempt. The industry itself which — according to some — engaged in potentially poisonous practices in the 1980s and then demanded vast public compensation in the 1990s. The second candidate is the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) which, according to its substantial company of critics, has behaved consistently as if its initials stood for More Aid Fast to Farmers. Finally, there are the scientists who, according to certain politicians, operated on an exceptionally flexible concept of certainty. All or none of these institutions might be deemed responsible. It is in the interest of all concerned to clear the air.

The most significant aspect of the Cunningham statement may be that about which he was most deliberately ambiguous. The Minister asserted that restructuring of the industry was "vital" and that it was essential for UK producers to presume that major changes were inevitable. This should be read as an acknowledgement that the export ban on British beef will not be lifted for some years to come. Furthermore, it can be calculated, Dr Cunningham does not think that consumer confidence will return much faster. This is not a Ministry message which will be popular with rural communities. That does not mean it is unrealistic.

The Opposition sought to place attention on the financial scheme that Dr Cunningham outlined for hill farmers. This will consist of £60 million offered to the beef sector from European Union funds. Another £25 million will be made available in 1998 via an increase in the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance. Dr Cunningham stresses that this allowance was "exceptional and one-off". The farmers will doubtless note that more could have been made available from EU coffers.

It is indicative of this whole affair that two, utterly different, reactions may be felt in the country to this compensation package. Those who believe that farmers chose to engage in dubious feeding practices in the 1980s will be outraged that one penny has been paid from the public purse. Others who have concluded that the health scare has been fuelled by hype will think that Dr Cunningham has been parsimonious. There cannot be a convincing answer to the question of financial claim until the question of factual blame is settled. We can only hope that the Phillips inquiry is more effective and timely than every other aspect of this saga.

OFF THE GROUND

The Eurofighter now awaits construction

After years of uncertainty and squabbling, the defence ministers of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain yesterday committed their governments to the construction and purchase of Eurofighter, the £40 billion aircraft that will form the backbone of European defence until well into the next millennium. Their signature in Bonn of a binding agreement guarantees up to 80,000 jobs in Britain, ensures that European defence industries remain at the forefront of technological innovation, and gives the manufacturers a product that will, over time, reap billions of pounds in export orders. Yet so chequered has been the history of this ambitious project that few can now believe that the crises of the past decade are over. Eurofighter looked stillborn at least three times; its birth will be a marvel not only of engineering but of political will.

British industry will welcome the final go-ahead for the fighter without reservations. With a 38 per cent stake in the project, Britain will manufacture many of the most sophisticated components, including the cockpit, the front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced ECR90 radar. Almost all the leading engineering and avionics companies will have a share of the work, ensuring their global competitive edge and the maintenance of a skilled workforce. Parts of the country will have jobs guaranteed for years to come, especially in Lancashire, Bristol and Derby. Britain will continue to be a centre of engineering excellence.

These arguments were long rehearsed in the wrangling among the four producing nations, especially when Germany was straining to pull out of the project. Britain, playing on Germany's European commitment, insisted that unless the project went ahead, America's technological lead would become unassailable. It argued that the fighter was the single greatest co-operative project making a reality of the European Union's dream of pooling its industrial muscle and interchanging training.

None of this, however, could stand beside the determining question: was the fighter really needed? Conceived in 1983 at the height of the Cold War, with development getting underway in 1988, Eurofighter was almost an early casualty of the euphoria that overtook the West after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The Germans, especially, insisted there was no longer a need for a plane to challenge the best of the Soviet air force. They considered its avionics, specifications and armaments too heavy, expensive and sophisticated for what they believed would, in future, be the low-level threats to Western security. Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, was determined to cancel the project, or, at best, change the Eurofighter into a cheaper and lighter plane.

Eventually, the Germans were convinced, partly by the experience of the Gulf War, that such arguments were naive. Europe needs up-to-date defence no less in time of peace than at the height of global ideological conflict. With the Cold War over, Europe could, in theory, have bought cheap Russian MiG29s, but spares would have presented an insurmountable obstacle — let alone the politics of relying on Moscow. The only real alternative was the American F22. But at double the cost, this would not provide commensurate extra security. Like Concorde and Airbus, other multinational aviation projects that appeared doomed during development, Eurofighter is both justified in its mission and of immense consequence to the competitiveness and innovation of Western defence. It has now, finally, taken off.

HO, HO, HI

Americans embrace the British Christmas

British exports may have had a difficult year in America, but there are some UK products which have clambered over the EU's tariff barriers to run riot through stateside shopping malls. While British mums have scoured high streets for Tellytubbies, American moms have tramped main streets for another sweet yet cloying celebration of the full stomach — the traditional Christmas pudding. For a nation which has come to regard skimmed milk in the decaff as an unthinkably decadent way in which to round off a dinner of mixed leaves and skinless chicken breast, the emergence of Mrs Beeton's suet cannonball as the new pudding of choice is as culturally significant as any of this year's social changes.

A country which had come to regard silicon as the only acceptable way of adding inches to the figure is learning to loosen its belt for the season of goodwill. Purveyors of traditional English fayre are delighted at the rejection of body fascism. This Christmastide there is much joy in the kingdom of Harrods over the thinnies who repent. The Treasury too, will be delighted — welcoming the boost to foreign earnings.

Figgy pudding is, however, not the only traditional trapping of the British Yule to win new friends abroad. The leading importer of transatlantic bibelots is Neiman-Marcus, the upscale department store where the assistants responded to Imran Khan's concerns about the Kashmir conflict by advising his wife to team the cardigan with a silk scarf. The biggest hit this season has not, however, been anything tight in the new brown, black or grey but something with an even shorter post-purchase life than a New York cocktail dress — the Christmas cracker.

The appeal of crackers, the paper ones that is, was hindered initially by the common language which divides our two great nations. American customers were, apparently, slow to see the attraction of pulling at a dry biscuit to celebrate the festive season. The glorious extravagance, however, of investing in a Christmas frippery which could not be packed away in the goodie trunk for subsequent re-use eventually worked its magic on a country of conspicuous consumers. Pulling on a cracker has become an American declaration of financial independence.

It is fitting that preparations for this Christmas should prove the Congressional Speaker Newt Gingrich right in his assertion that the Atlantic was easier to cross than the English Channel. Although many apparently British Christmas traditions are German inventions introduced by Prince Albert the character of the season really owes more to Dickens and Disney than Deutschland. The special relationship is alive and well, paper hats on the partners' heads and plum duff on the table.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Resolving Labour economic conflicts

From Mr Mike Faulkes

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative I applaud new Labour's determination to keep government expenditure within strict limits. We have a strong economy but high interest rates directed at avoiding inflation. The consequently high pound damages exports.

Isn't there another way of balancing these conflicts? A reduction in interest rates could be mirrored by an increase in taxation which would leave the average family no worse off. This would help exports, increase government income and reduce its expenditure on servicing the national debt. The result would be to make exports stronger and enable the Government to improve expenditure on vital services or restart repaying the national debt, or a judicious combination of the two.

The Government did give a manifesto undertaking not to increase taxes. It has already broken this several times. If the proposed increase was clearly a package leading to reduced mortgage repayments it should be within the wit of the Government to explain this to the electorate. It presumably has sufficient influence over the Bank concerning interest rates. At present it is wringing its hands and doing little positive in the economic field.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE FAULKES,
171 Kidmore Road,
Caversham, Reading RG4 7NN.
December 19.

Welfare changes

From Mr Frederik Dean

Sir, I would like to commend the Government on its programme of welfare reform (letters, December 9, 13, 17, 18). As the steward of this nation's taxpayers' money it must be wise in spending limited resources.

It is good and proper that this country has a system which helps those who cannot help themselves. I would, however, like to suggest that there are insufficient funds available to distribute to those who will not help themselves.

Spending priorities will have to be made. It is time individual responsibility was again seen as a key to a stable, caring society. Without it, "rights" should not be forthcoming to anyone who claims them.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERIK DEAN,
36 Normanhurst Avenue,
Bournemouth BH8 9NP.
fad@docfadean.prestel.co.uk
December 19.

Cold War memories

From Mrs Caroline Scallon

Sir, Richard Beeston, your correspondent in Moscow, must be too young to remember the temperatures in that city at the end of 1978 (weather reports, December 17, 18). They too were the lowest for the preceding century. Mr Beeston's parents should remember, as they were there at the time (with *The Daily Telegraph*), as were we (with Barclays Bank).

Thermometers in Moscow plunged to -40C. We watched the guards at Lenin's tomb changing every 15 minutes one night, in spite of the heating pads under their feet; garage-less cars had their engines turned over every 15 minutes all night and most of the day; and we filled our screen washers with vodka, which did not freeze; humans could stand being outside for only 10 to 15 minutes at a time before returning to their overheated apartments and a warming tot of brandy. Dacha parties arranged for the festive season had to be cancelled.

Democracy, it seems, does not have a monopoly on lowest recorded temperatures; or perhaps these figures were suppressed under the communist regime?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE SCALLON,
28 Grange Road, SW13 9RE.
December 18.

Cold snipe

From Mr J. G. Wishart

Sir, Mr Peter Birnie (letter today) is right: southerners, confronted by snow, become a race of wimps.

When I lived in Maryland, three inches of snow were required before schools and military bases closed. In Alabama, a heavy frost sufficed.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. WISHART,
Milton House,
Milton of Balgonie,
Glenrothes KY7 6PX.
December 19.

A matter of trust

From Mr Ben Noble

Sir, Having listened to the Prime Minister (report, December 18) and read the Paymaster General's statements (report, December 15) on the question of offshore trusts, and not understanding what these are about, can I ask them what the purpose of these trusts is, apart from avoidance of UK tax?

Sincerely,
BEN NOBLE,
25 Windermere Avenue, Hawcoat,
Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4LN.
December 19.

'Hollow gestures' of Irish President

From Mr Robin Bury

Sir, The fact that our new, staunchly Catholic President, Mary McAleese, has taken Holy Communion in the Church of Ireland cathedral in Dublin (News in brief, December 9) struck me, as a member of that Church, as being an act of theatre rather than solemn worship. Presumably her motive was to build another of those bridges she talks about to Protestants in Ireland.

However, the President knows full well that in the Republic of Ireland relations between Protestants and Catholics are good, so this sort of gesture is a hollow one. All it has achieved is to arouse the wrath of some of her own church leaders and divided Catholics on this island.

Perhaps the gesture was intended more for Unionists in Northern Ireland? If so, it was negated by the President's visit to West Belfast on December 5, when she failed to meet Joe Hendron, the former representative of the SDLP, the Catholic constitutional party. Instead, she met with the extreme nationalist, Gerry Adams, whose movement (in the words of your leading article of December 12) uses violence "not to secure freedom and democracy but stifle it".

Unionists are pragmatic people and judge people by their acts, not their words. On this basis, they know Mary McAleese as a radical nationalist, and dismiss her silly talk of her "love" for them. People in Ireland want lasting peace and stability. They realise that if Mr Hume and Mr Trimble were left to make terms, a settlement would be reached in a matter of days.

Had Mrs McAleese been creative enough to wear a poppy during her inauguration ceremony on Armistice Day to commemorate the many Irish dead in two world wars — she refused to do this (report, November 12) — she would have given out a signal that she disapproves of the extreme republicans who are successfully setting the agenda today, both in London and Dublin. And that would have shown true leadership.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN BURY,
11 Firgrove,
Military Road, Killiney, Co Dublin.
December 15.

Guardsmen in prison

From Major-General Murray Naylor

Sir, The involvement of Martin Bell, MP, in the campaign to highlight the cases of Scots Guardsmen Fisher and Wright, together with your report and leader today, make it clear that their position is one which must be considered again by Ministers on the grounds of natural justice.

Martin Bell knows the circumstances which soldiers have had to face on the streets of Northern Ireland since 1969 and his judgment and experience in these matters should be heeded.

I visited Jim Fisher and Mark Wright on December 16 in Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland, where they will be spending their sixth Christmas for a tragic mistake made while they were discharging the operational policy of the UK Government.

They are genuinely remorseful for what happened and look forward to returning to their regiment, but are bewildered by their apparently different treatment from the IRA prisoners released yesterday for Christmas.

It is not good enough for the cases of Fisher and Wright to be treated without reference to their human rights. At this time of peace and goodwill for all men perhaps a gesture of reconciliation is appropriate for all those who have become victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland, not just those with powerful advocates to speak for them.

Yours etc,
MURRAY NAYLOR
(Chairman of the Guardsmen
Fisher and Wright Release Group),
PO Box 16331, London SW1E 6ZJ.
December 19.

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson

Sir, Your leader today draws attention to the anomaly of justice which has allowed the release for a Christmas break with their families of men whose crimes against humanity were terrible and deliberate, but has denied such fleeting liberty to two loyal British soldiers incarcerated in the same prison for an action when they were under orders in defence of the Queen's peace.

One of the main planks of British policy now is the theme of "open government".

Should we not therefore know exactly where the responsibility for ordering and denying such releases lies?

Yours faithfully,
P. W. JOHNSON,
23 Albury Park,
Guildford GU5 9BB.
December 19.

Turkey and Cyprus

From the Reverend
A. Graham Hellier

Sir, I would not wish to devalue the Reconciliation Walk from Cologne to Jerusalem which marked the 900th anniversary of the First Crusade (letter, December 18). Roger Forster links it with Turkey's application to join the EU — a very different matter.

Had the walkers diverted through Diyarbakir they would have found the air full of voices about fresh atrocities — not all one-sided, it is true — for which the Turkish Government carries a heavy responsibility.

The 30 million Kurdish people are effectively under military rule. Their culture is still repressed and their civil rights are denied. Arrests and torture are everyday occurrences. MPs are imprisoned and journalists murdered. Hundreds of villages have been bombed and razed. Over 12,000 people have died.

Our ears may be tuned to the distant wrongs of history but there is fresh blood crying out to be heard. Is it surprising that Europe is "equivocal"?

Would European membership tip the balance towards true democracy or must human rights first prevail? There is work to be done here for justice as well as reconciliation.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM HELLIER,
Monmarsh End,
Marden, Hereford HR1 3EZ.

From Mr Aziz Gulbahar

Sir, Mr Tony Mitsides (letter, December 18) is right in his belief that Cyprus's membership of the EU will be a new factor in the 30-year-old stalemate.

The unilateral Greek Cypriot application has been the single most important factor that will lead to the permanent division of the island: the Greek Cypriots' wish of Enosis (union with Greece) being achieved after decades of trying and the Turkish Cypriots seeking integration with Turkey, since it is clear the EU wants neither of the two parties.

Yours faithfully,
AZIZ GULBAHAR
(Chairman, Political Committee),
Council of Turkish Cypriot
Associations (UK),
PO Box 12759, London E8 1PP.
December 18.

Jacob of Ancona

From Professor John Larner

Sir, Reading Dr David Abulafia's and Ms Kay Lacey's letters (December 12) on David Selbourne's *The City of Light* (letter, December 5), I could not help wondering whether whoever produced the manuscript on which it is said to be based wasn't playing a game of "See how many mistakes you can spot". Here are two I particularly enjoyed.

Sailing the Adriatic in 1270, the narrator, "Jacob of Ancona", says how fast his galley sailed — "we made wings of our oars" — thus anticipating one of Dante's most vivid metaphors (*Inferno*, xxvi, 125), first written down some forty to fifty years later.

Then, from Acre, the capital of the Crusader kingdom, he is allowed to take a caravan to Damascus with which at that time (though Jacob is oblivious of it all) the kingdom was at war.

But more amusing than the absolute impossibilities are the general absurdities. Among these my own favourite is the way Jacob hires a pilot at Ancona to guide him through the China seas — rather like taking a London taxi-driver with you to help get around Edinburgh.

Perhaps the publishers, Little, Brown and Company, could market *The City of Light* here by offering a prize to whoever can identify the most and best of these.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LARNER,
1 Forrest Road, Stirling FK8 1UH.

Unsporting abuse

From Mrs Elizabeth Marchal

Sir, School pupils who shout abuse at sporting opposition (report, December 13) should not be condemned: they have obviously set their sights on serving their country as MPs and are merely practising.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MARCHAL,
33 Croft Way, Sevenoaks TN13 2JU.
December 13.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Welsh assembly

From Mr Ray Kingdon

Sir, I voted "Yes" for a Welsh assembly believing that it would be based in the capital, Cardiff, and so did thousands of others who had read promotional material. At no time were the Welsh electorate given information to the contrary.

Any move now by the Secretary of State for Wales to break this link and to house the assembly elsewhere may surely be viewed as misrepresentation.

Yours etc,
RAY KINGDON,
77 Heathway, Cardiff CF4 4JS.
ray@dyspel.demon.co.uk

Messiah message raises the spirits

From Dr Bill Smith

Sir, Mr Anthony Fry is rightly concerned (letter, December 20) about the confusion over whether to sit or stand during the Hallelujah Chorus. However, there is a spiritual significance which helps to explain this tradition.

Handel's *Messiah* traces the story of Jesus from his birth through his earthly ministry, his Crucifixion, and his Resurrection. The Hallelujah Chorus represents the disciples' final understanding of the reality of his Resurrection. It is natural that they should want to rise to their feet to acclaim this wonderful revelation. No doubt this, too, is how George II felt during the first performance of this moving work.

There is a yet deeper significance: the *Messiah* continues with our own resurrection: "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible" (I Corinthians xv, 52). The entire audience of the Albert Hall, or wherever, rising for the Hallelujah Chorus provides a brief foretaste of how at the last day we shall all rise up "to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians iv, 17).

Yours etc,
BILL SMITH,
25 Sidelands Road,
Downend, Bristol BS16 2TS.
bill.smith@bristol.ac.uk
December 22.

Reindeer recruit

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, A cursory reading of an alternative text, *The Night before Christmas*, by Clement C. Moore, appears to confirm the view of Mr A. H. Davis (letter, December 17) that the employment of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was indeed temporary.

On the night in question, visibility was excellent ("The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, gave the lustre of midday to objects below . . ."). St Nick favoured eight reindeer in a 2:2:2:2 formation, calling them by name: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen.

On a clear night, Rudolph's special attribute would have been redundant, accounting for his omission from the squad. The inescapable conclusion is surely that Rudolph is kept in reserve for hazardous weather conditions.

Happy Christmas to all.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road, Sheffield S1 4TL.
juliansullivan1@compuserve.com

From Mr A. D. Peevers

Sir, While Mr Davis is correct in asserting that Santa's sleigh was not drawn by red-nosed reindeer he is clearly mistaken in believing that Rudolph was only a one-night temp. In the song it is stated that "all of the other reindeer . . . wouldn't let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games".

If Rudolph was so unfairly excluded from the extracurricular activities of the said reindeer then surely this proves that he was indeed regularly employed by Santa (at least on a seasonal basis).

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PEEVERS,
Box 51775, Nairobi, Kenya.

Heard but not seen

From Colonel David Whitaker

Sir, There is not much point in debating when you should tell your children the whole truth about Father Christmas (letters, December 20): they will discover it in their own time in a variety of ways. I well remember my son when he was about six telling me that he had not been able to see Father Christmas filling his stocking because his bedroom had been too dark, but that he had heard what he said when he stubbed his toes on a bedpost.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WHITAKER,
The Dower House, Chawton,
Nr Alton, GU34 1SB.

Heavenly gift

From Mrs Anne Middleton

Sir, Peterborough's bargain hunters (letter, December 22) should count themselves lucky it is only the price of their Holy Family crib scene that has been reduced. Imagine the shock awaiting Christmas shoppers a few years ago in Hexham, Northumberland, where the reduction in a charity shop was far more drastic: "Nativity set £8. Baby missing."

Yours faithfully,
ANNE MIDDLETON,
8 Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL.
December 22.

Shocking filler

From Mr Philip J. Gregg

Sir, Mr Alasdair Maclean (letter, December 20) asks where the mouse in the traditional Christmas stocking came from. The same place as the mouse in the traditional tin of baked beans (report, December 19)?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. GREGG,
32 Lancaster Road, Rugby CV21 2QW.
December 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
December 22: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and of the Game Conservancy Trust, this afternoon presented the prizes at the Young Shots' Clay Pigeon Shoot at the Sandringham Shooting Ground.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 22: The Prince of Wales, Patron, this morning visited the Cotswold Care Hospice, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness, Patron, later visited the Sue Ryder Home at Leckhampton Court, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Birthdays today

The Emperor of Japan celebrates his 64th birthday today.

The Earl of Balfour, 72; Sir Franklin Berman, civil servant, 58; Mrs C. Bicknell, former chairman, Victoria Health Authority, 78; Sir Norman Biggs, banker, 90; Lord Blake, FBA, 81; Professor Timothy Burt, Master, Hatfield College, Durham University, 46; Mr David Davis, MP, 49; Sir Peter Davis, chief executive, Prudential Corporation, 56; Mr Maurice Denham, actor, 88; Sir Colin Fielding, civil servant, 71; Mr J.R.S. Guinness, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 62; Mr Yousuf Karsh, photographer, 89; Mr Graham Kelly, chief executive, Football Association, 52.

Professor Peter Lachmann, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 66; Miss Belinda Lang, actress, 44; Mr Christopher Lawrence, silversmith, 61; Sir Roger Neville, former chief executive, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 66; Mr Ashley Raeburn, former chairman, Boosey and Hawkes, 79; Herr Helmut Schmidt, former Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany, 79; the Rev Christopher Turner, former Headmaster, Stowe School, 68; Mr R.S. Unwin, publisher, 72; the Marquess of Winchester, 56.

The Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster

The Queen has agreed to be Patron of the Tercentenary year, 1998, of The Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster. Please phone for further information - 0171 828 3242.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in December 1997. They are entitled to use the designation 'Chartered Chemist' and the letters CChem FRSC.

R A Aitken, B C Axcell, P C Davies, A C Dweck, C D Fields, M D Goodyear, G W Ketley, M R S McCoustra, P R Norman, J Oakes, D N Rogers, G S Russell, M Sargent, D J Schiffrin, C A Shand, M S Subramanian, A J Vella, A D Wright.

ALAN WELLER

Suzanne Trisk, of Christie's, South Kensington, with a rare Gauge 1 mid-1930s Pacific steam locomotive which was expected to sell for £7,000 to £10,000. The locomotive is the largest item in a two-day auction of trains and toys taking place yesterday and today. The smallest is a Japanese Penny Toy train whose coaches are each 2in long

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor, Preston, 1732; Sir Martin Archer Shee, painter, Dublin, 1770; Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Sharon, Vermont, 1805; Samuel Smiles, author of *Self Help*, Haddington, Lothian, 1812; Sir Hugh Allen, musician, Reading, 1869; J. Arthur Rank, 1st Baron Rank, industrialist and film magnate, Hull, 1888.

DEATHS: Michael Drayton, poet, London, 1631; John Cotton, Puritan clergyman (the Patriarch of New England), Boston, 1652; Thomas Robert Malthus, economist, Bath, 1834; Hugh Miller, geologist, committed suicide, 1865; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, builder of the tower bearing his name, Paris, 1923; Anthony Herman Fokker, aircraft pioneer, New York, 1939; Edward Frederick Lindley Wood, 1st Earl of Halifax, statesman, Viceroy of India 1926-31, Garrowby, Yorkshire, 1959.

HMS Bounty, commanded by William Bligh, set sail for the South Seas, 1787.

Joseph Hansom patented a type of cab, 1834.

The BBC began daily radio broadcasts, 1922.

Reception

HM Government
Lord Clinton-Davis, Minister for Trade, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty' Government yesterday at Lancaster House, to mark the 25th anniversary of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Church of Scotland

Retirements

The Rev Eric J. Alexander, from St George's Tron, Glasgow.

The Rev W.M.D. Thompson, from Crailing and Eckford with Oxnam with Roxburgh.

The Rev William Brown, from Polwarth, Edinburgh.

The Rev Charles S. Morrice, from Kenya.

The Rev James Anderson, from O'Neill, Kincardine.

Church services for Christmas Eve

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 5 E & Blessing of the crib, Sumsion in A; 11.30 Midnight Euch in St Mark's Church.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Boreol Weddi: 1 Cymun Bendigaid; 5.30 Hwyrol Weddi; 11.15 Midnight Euch.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 8 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Euch, Darke in F.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 3.30 EP; 5.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Ding Dong Ding (Woodward), Canon G O'Neill.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 11.30 Midnight Euch, Darke in F, Canon Hindley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 3.30 Blessing of the Crib and E, Whitlock in G, A: O little town of Bethlehem (Walford Davies). On Christmas Night all Christians sing (Vaughan Williams).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 8.40 M; 12.30 HC; 3.30 Nine Lessons & Carols sung by Cathedral Choir; 11.30 Midnight Euch.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rite A; 11 Crib Service, Rev Dr M J Chandler; 3 Carol Service; 5 E, Ireland in F.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 3 Crib Service; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Darke in F, Canon D Weston.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 8.45 MP; 12.35 HC; 4 Crib Service; 6 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 *Midnight Mass*, Agnus Dei & Carols, Missa ad praesepe (Malcolm), Bishop of Chelmsford.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3.30 Cathedral Choir Service; 5.30 Children's Crib Service, Sussex Carol (Vaughan Williams); 11.30 Euch, Rite A.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 1.10 HC; 4.15 Blessing of the Crib; 5.30 E, Sumsion in G, Love came down at Christmas (Rutter); 10.45 Vigil of Music & Readings; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Sumsion in F, The Chancellor.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: Midnight: The First Eucharist of Christmas, Langlais, Messe Solennelle.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 3 Carol Service.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Mathias in C.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.30 Ecumenical Service; 9 MP; 12.40 Midday Prayer; 3.30 Children's Service "Journey to Bethlehem"; 7 Liturgy.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 5 Said EP; 6.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Euch, Ireland in C, Prelude and Fugue in C major (Bach), Canon S Barby.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.30 HC; 9 MP & L; 12.30 HC; 3 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 5.15 EP.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M & L; 8 HC; 6.30 E & Procession with Carols, Stanford in G; 11.30 *Euch & Carols*, Missa ad *praesepe* (Malcolm), The Lord Bishop.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 3.30 Family Carol Service & lighting of the tree; 6 Carol Service with blessing of the crib.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 4 Children's Christmas Service; *11.45* Midnight Euch, Missa Brevis (Fibich).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 3 Family Service; 5.30 Ch E.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 4 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Prelude and Fugue in B major (Dupré); 11.30 S Euch, Darke in F, *A little child (Flemish), The holly and the* ivy (Walford Davies), Bishop of Leicester.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 9.30 HC; 5.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), Tomorrow shal be my dancing day (Willcocks); 6.30 Blessing of the crib; 11.30 Midnight Mass.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M & L; 8 HC; 3.15 EP; 4 Carol Service attended by The Mayor and The Bishop; 11.30 Midnight Euch & blessing of the crib.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30, 9.15 Euch; *3.30 Nine Lessons & Carols; 6 Solemn E;* 9.30 Midnight Mass & S Euch with blessing of the crib, Burton in F.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 11.30 S Euch, The Dean.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 6 Carol Service; 11.30 Euch, Missa S Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Silent Night (Hone & Little), What sweeter music can we bring (Rutter), Canon I Bennett.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 3 Festival of Nine *Lessons & Carols, The Lord at first did Adam* make (Ferguson), Away in a manger (Moore), Star of the mystic East (Rubbra); 11.30 Christmas Euch.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 12 Crib Service; 3 Christmas Carol Service; 6 Procession with Carols, Up! Good Christen Folk, and Listen (Woodward), See the child (Rutter), Benedicamus Domino (Warlock); 11.15 Midnight Euch, Adam lay y-bounden (Ord), Quelle est cette odeur agreable (Willcocks), The Bishop.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 4 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 5.30 E; 8 Carols with the Salvation Army Band; 11.45 Solemn Euch, Schubert in G.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 4 Children's crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Mass, St Nicholas' *Mass (Haydn), The Bishop.*

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 8.30 M; 11 Euch & Blessing of the Crib; 5.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 HC; 8 M; 3.15 E & blessing of the crib, Stanford in G, Noel Nouveler (Jackson); 11.30 Midnight Mass, Messe Solennelle (Langlais).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 5.30 Ch E; 11.30 Midnight Mass televised live on BBC1, Rev D Watson.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 5.45 EP; 7 Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 4 Carols at the crib; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Schubert in G, God is with us (Tavener), In the bleak midwinter (Darke), The Bishop of Southwark.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 HC; 8 MP; 12.15 HC; 3.15 ES, Stanford in G, A: Zion hears the watchmen's voices (Bach); 4.30 Blessing of the Crib; 7 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.45 Midnight Euch, Sumsion in F, In the bleak *mid winter (Darke).*

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 1 HC; 5.30 EP; 7 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Stanford in C & F, Sussex carol (Ledger), Silent Night (Morley), The Chancellor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 5 Family Service with Cathedral Choir; 11 Procession Midnight Mass, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier).

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 3 Blessing of the Crib; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Ireland in C.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8, 12.30 HC; 3.30 ES; 4 Service of Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Darke in F, The Dean.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 4.15 Sol Vespers, Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan); 5.30 Vigil Mass; 11.15 Vigil & Midnight Mass, Missa *brevis* (Kodály), Hodie Christus natus est (Schütz), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3 Children's Service; 5.30 E with blessing of the crib, Dyson in E minor, Silent night (Gruber); 11.30 Midnight Euch, Messe Solennelle (Widor), In the bleak mid winter (Bach), Three Kings (Cornelius).

YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 7.50 HC; 11 Crib service; 3 EP; 4 Service of Lessons & Carols.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 7 MP; 7.30, *11.30 HC; 3 The crib service; 5 E; 8* Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 11.30 Midnight Euch, Darke in F, Riu Riu Chiu (Spanish traditional carol)

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 7 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Ch Euch, Gabriel's Message (Pettman), Rev K Goulstone.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembs: 7.30 MP; 8 Cymun Bendigaid; 10 HC; 6 EP; 11.30 Euch, Schubert in G, Away in a manger (Willcocks), *The little road to Bethlehem (Head),* The Dean.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & HC; 11 HC, Canon D Pearce; 4 Crib Service; 5 E; 7 Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight S Euch, Missa ad praesepe (Malcolm).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 7.30, 12.30 Mass; 3.30 Children's Crib Service; 11.30 Midnight Solemn Mass of the Nativity, Archbishop M Bowen.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11pm Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 7.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo (Haydn).

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 9.30 MP; 1.15 Euch; 5.30 EP; 11.30 S Euch, 4 part service (Byrd), The Sussex Carol (Wilcox), Rev J L Bell.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 4 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 12.30 HC; 2.30 E; 4 Christmas Carol Service & Blessing of the Crib; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Messe de Minuit (Charpentier).

ALL SAINTS, W1: 11 Midnight Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn).

ALL SOULS, W1: 11pm Christmas C, Rev R Trist.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11.30pm Carols, Missa solemnis in C (Mozart).

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS; 6.30 ES, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 6pm Mass; 11.30 Carols; 12 Midnight Mass.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 11.30 Midnight C.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SW1: 11.30 Midnight Mass in the Lady Chapel, Mozart in G, Rev M Marshall.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 6 Vigil Mass; 11.30 Midnight Mass & Carols, Coronation Mass (Mozart), *For unto us a child is born* (Handel).

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11.15 Midnight C in the Great Hall, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 7 Family Carol Service by candlelight, Rev G Neumann; 11 Candlelight Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 12.30 HC; 11.45pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), Alma Redemptoris *Mater (Lassus).*

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11.30 Candlelit Midnight Mass, Mozart in B flat.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11.30 Ch Euch, Missa Brevis S Joannis de Deo (Haydn), A *spotless rose* (Howells), Rev D MacKenzie.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11.30pm Candlelight Service.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 8.30pm Latin Mass in Old Rite; 11.30 Carols & Midnight Mass, Schubert in B flat.

ST JAMES'S, W2: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Rev D Lawson.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 10.15 Meditative preparation for Midnight Mass; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Rev D Reeves.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Midnight C, Toccata (Widor), Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 4 Crib Service for Young Children; 11.30 Midnight Euch.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11.45 Midnight Euch, Schubert in G, Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 6.30 Carol Service, Rev D Monteith; 11.30 Midnight Mass, Rev C Herbert.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 3 Children's Crib Service; 4.30 E; 11.30 Midnight Mass, The Bishop of Kensington.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 7.30 Euch; 6.30pm Christingle Service; 11.30 Midnight Mass.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 11.30 Midnight Mass, Schubert in C, Frohlocket ihr Volken auf Erden (Mendelssohn), Prof J Caldwell.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 5 Children's Service & Blessing of the crib, Canon R Royle; 11.30 Midnight Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Hodie Christus natus est (Sweelinck), Rev W Gulliford.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Solemnis (Mozart), Fr A R Chidwick.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 11.30 Midnight HC, Setting by John Merbecke.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11pm Carols, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), Christmas Proclamation (Tavener), For unto us a child is born (Handel), In dulcio jubilo (Bach), Rev S J Hobbs; 11.30 Euch.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11.15pm Carols at the Manger; 11.30 Midnight HC, Missa Puer Natus est Nobis (Tallis).

Marriages

Lord Ashtown and Mary Princess of Pless
The marriage took place, very quietly, on December 17, between Nigel Trench and Mary Pless, daughter of the late Colonel and Mrs Minchin, formerly of Busherstown, Co Tipperary.

Mr A.T. Borthwick and Miss C.J. Cox
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 13, at Borthwick Parish Church, Midlothian, between Mr Alistair Borthwick, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Donald Borthwick, and Miss Caroline Cox, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Cox. The Reverend Dr McPake, of the Church of Scotland, solemnised the marriage.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Beatrix and Maxine Cox. Mr Derek Borthwick was best man.

A reception was held at Borthwick Castle, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Lt Col A.W. Scott Elliot and Miss F.G. Fuller-Shapcott
The marriage took place quietly, on Saturday, December 20, at Lauder Old Parish Church, Berwickshire, between Alastair Scott Elliot and Gail Fuller-Shapcott.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.J. Boyle and Dr C. Gorrara
The engagement is announced between Joe, second son of Mr and Mrs Martin Boyle, of Cambridge, and Claire, elder daughter of Umberto and Jacqueline Gorrara, of Hanworth.

Lieutenant A. Laycock, RN, and Miss J-A.S. Cole
The engagement is announced between Antony, son of Mr and Mrs George Laycock, of Ossett, and Jo-Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Cole, of Guildford.

Mr P.G. Oates and Miss A.P. Foulis
The engagement is announced between Patrick, elder son of Mr and Mrs T.D. Oates, of Ratoath, Co Meath, Eire, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Major and Mrs J.A. Foulis, of York.

Latest wills

Rupert Jesse Britcher, of London SW7, left estate valued at £2,166,771 net.

He left £100,000 to the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, £10,000 each to St Joseph's Hospice, London E8, St Andrew's Catholic Church, Tenterden, Kent, and Glyndebourne Arts Trust; £5,000 each to Friends of the National Collections of Ireland, Little Sisters of the Poor, London Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society and Society for the Protection of Unborn Children; £2,000 to Brompton Oratory.

Patricia Oakley, of Bakewell, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1,228,895 net.

John Edward Price, of Crickhowell, Powys, left estate valued at £1,666,741 net.

He left £40,000 to the Thrombosis and General Research Fund; £10,000 each to Urology Fund, of Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, North Gwent Cardiac Rehabilitation and Aftercare Fund, and the RNLI; £5,000 to both St Catwg's Church, Llangattock, near Crickhowell, Powys, and St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell; £3,000 each to Crickhowell Cricket Club, Crickhowell Rugby Club, Crickhowell Soccer Club and the Greenhill Residential Home.

Elaine Joan Rebak, company director, of London N6, left estate valued at £1,060,281 net.

Frank Robinson, of Cossall, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,001,776 net.

George Robert Scott, of Terrington St John, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,431,880 net.

Richard Mervyn Smith, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,383,132 net.

Hugh Marshall Stowell, of Clevedon, North Somerset, left estate valued at £1,676,186 net.

Rosamund Mary Von Pokorny, of Callow End, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £1,022,340 net.

She left £2,000 to the Combined Theatrical Charities.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Anyone who does not stand by the teaching about Christ, but goes beyond it, does not possess God; he who stands by it possesses both the Father and the Son. 2 John 9.

BIRTHS

ALLOTT - On December 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Christa D'Souza and Nick Allott, a son, Flynn Oscar.

ATKINSON - Michael and Rebecca (née Hicks) are delighted with the safe arrival of Harry Alan James on December 20th at Guildford, Surrey.

BAWANY - On December 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Mehreen (née Odho) and Ahmed Ebrahim, a daughter, Amandah.

[illegible] - On December 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Dhuna, a beautiful daughter, Isabel.

BUCKINGHAM - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda and Christopher, a daughter, Amelia Jane.

DENNIS - On December 20th, to Joanna and Geoffrey, a son, Dominic, another Lincoln City Supporter.

EPSTEIN - On December 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Jane (Brand) and Michael, a daughter, Amy Anne.

[illegible] - On December 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon (née Risley) and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Madeleine Lily.

GREEN - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Rory (née Lexmann) and David, a son, Oscar Benjamin - "Ben".

HACKER - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona (née Green) and George, a son, Neil Bernard and a daughter, Georgina Caragh.

KELL - On December 20th at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, to Fawzia (King) and Andrew, a son, Thomas Robert Edward.

LEMON - On 17th December to Sheila (née Cook) and Andrew, a daughter, Antonia Rose Fitzmaurice, a sister for George, Olivia and Susannah.

BIRTHS

MADELL - On December 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Rochelle and Kenny, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Miles and Charlotte.

PATEL - On 17th December at The Portland Hospital, to Nitesh and Bela, a daughter, Neena.

ROWSE - On 18th December, to Tam (née Shepard) and Julian, two sons, Max Giles and Oliver David, an early first birthday present for sister Emily.

SALIBA - On December 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Souheil and Regina, a beautiful daughter, [illegible].

SEVILLE - On Saturday 13th December 1997, a daughter for Andrew and Valerie (née Gillies) and Eilidh Lorna at Ayrshire Central Hospital.

SINNOTT - On December 19th 1997 at Maidstone Hospital, to Suzanne (née Porter) and Paul, a beautiful daughter, Rebecca Louise, a granddaughter for Ken and Jean, John and Patsy.

SUTER - On Sunday December 21st 1997, to Jane (née Wolstenholme) and Neale, a darling son, Thomas Henry.

TOTTON - On 17th December, to Lauriane (née Castaing) and Anthony, a son, Louis David.

TRAFFORD - On 12th December 1997, to Katie (née Davies) and James, a daughter, Hannah India Katie, a sister to Hugo.

TYER - On December 18th, to Caroline (née Horsburgh) and Rupert, a daughter, Imogen Fiona Charlotte. A sister for Emily and Abigail.

WARDLAW - On December 18th, to Catherine (née Rutherford) and James, a son, Angus James, a brother for Benedict and Sophia.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

HARRISON - Dan PHINA died 23/12/87. You are always in our hearts. Ruth, Jonathan and Jane.

DEATHS

BOONE - Ronald Edward, Major suddenly on 19th December in his 86th year. Husband of the late Susan much loved father and grandfather. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Upper Slaughter on Saturday 27th December at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for St Peter's Church c/o W.J. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1DG.

BOYDELL - Michael of Plas Onn, Nercwys, Mold, peacefully at home with his family on 18th December. Tel: (01352) 700266.

BURDETT - Stella Mary, landscape artist of Portishead, Somerset, died December 21st after a long illness, at the home of her sister Dulce Lawrence, St Margaret's, Twickenham. Lovingly remembered by her family.

CALDICOTT - David on 18th December, at home near Elgin, after illness cheerfully borne. Beloved husband of Hope, father of Stephen, Helen and Crispin, and grandfather of Fiona, Liddie and Thomas. Remains for medical research; donations, if desired, to Cancer or Heart charities. Thanksgiving Service to be arranged.

CASELEY - On December 18th 1997, at Ashurst Park Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, Rosamond Caseley LDS. Edin, 1922 aged 97 years. Formerly of Whitchurch-on-Thames, nr. Pangbourne, Berks. and sometime orthodontist at Eastman Dental Hospital and The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Funeral at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday 30th December at 10.30 am. Flowers to E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

DANDRIDGE - On December 21st peacefully at home Betty Lilian (née Cole) aged 76 of Bowcombe, Kingsbridge, South Devon. Enquiries to J & G Parrott, 15 Duncombe Street, Kingsbridge, tel: (01548) 852302.

DENYER - Major Michael Hugh (RM rtd) died on 19th December. Funeral at St Thomas à Becket, Warblington, Hants, on 29th December at 10.45 am.

DOIG - Very Reverend Dr. Andrew Beveridge peacefully at Dundee Royal Infirmary on Sunday December 21st 1997 after a short illness. Andrew, beloved husband of Barbara, beloved father of Peter, Isabelle and Anna, Bapu to Vikki, Alex, Jess and Michael and father-in-law to Janet, Iain and Stuart. His Ministry touched the lives of many with compassion and grace. His warmth and gentle humour were his gifts to his children and friends. Rest peacefully in God's care. Funeral Service at North Church, Perth, on Monday December 29th at 12 noon, to which all friends are invited and thereafter to Fonab Cemetery, Pitlochry. Family flowers only please.

DOVE - Eric Scott on Friday, 19th December 1997, peacefully after a short illness, in Kingston Hospital aged 80. Sadly such a brief time in his new flat where he was so happy. Very, very much loved and loving husband of the late Patricia, father of Hilary, father-in-law of Peter and "Boppa" to Edward and Claire. Funeral to be held at Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 29th December at 3 pm. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Fredk. W. Paine, tel: (0181) 946-1974.

FORSTER - Ian Robson peacefully at Trinity Hospice on 18th December 1997, beloved Vicar of St Phillips Church, Queenstown Road, SW8. Loving husband of Ann and affectionate father of John, Tim and Jane. Funeral Service at St Phillips Church on Monday 29th December 1997 at 11 am, followed by private cremation at Putney Vale Crematorium, Stagg Lane, SW15 at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Ian's favourite charities c/o E Lanner & Son. 0171-223 5432.

FRIEND - Bernard suddenly passed away on 21st December 1997. A lovely husband of Sally, devoted father of Edward, Simon and Suzanne, and proud grandfather of Nicholas and Oliver.

HADDON - On December 20th in hospital aged 80 years Harold Bryan Haddon of Ilkley. Dearly loved and caring husband of Sylvia. Funeral arrangements later.

HENMAN - Richard died September 12th 1997 peacefully at home after an illness courageously borne aged 46 years.

HERTFORD - Hugh Edward Conway Seymour - Marquess of Hertford - of Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, died suddenly on December 22nd 1997.

HOLMES - Sir Maurice, Barrister at Law, died peacefully in his sleep on 21st December, surrounded by loving care. Dearly loved husband of Joyce (Joey) for 62 years and much loved uncle of Chris, Sandy, David and James. Chairman of Tilling Association, Chairman of London Transport and Circuit Administrator. Private Cremation. Memorial Service at a later date.

HUSSEY - Helen Justice, sister of Dukie and aunt of James and Katharine, peacefully in her sleep on December 19th. Funeral Service Monday December 29th Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, Sussex at 12 noon. No flowers by request, but any donations in lieu to RSPCA, London Road, Patcham, Brighton.

HUTCHISON - Eric Chetwynd peacefully on 19th December 1997 after a short illness at Ashley House Nursing Home, Cirencester, aged 91. Formerly of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Husband of the late Bertha Hutchison and much loved father of Christopher, Michael and Joanna. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Cirencester, on Wednesday 31st December at 11 am.

JONES - Joan Marie aged 66 years. Formerly of Potterspury, Northants. Mother of Linda, Elaine and Alyson. Peacefully on Friday 19th December 1997. Nexus Member, Ex Alps Employee, Voluntary Postmistress at R.B.F. The Funeral Service will take place on Monday 29th December 1997 at Crownhill Crematorium, Milton Keynes at 1.30 pm. Enquiries should be directed to: H. W. Mason & Sons, 68a Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1DT Tel: 01908 561561.

KALMUS - Anna (Nussy) on December 14th 1997 aged 89 died at home. Greatly missed by her 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

LEWYS-LLOYD - On December 21st at Beach House, Wirral, Idris Wyn Lewys-Lloyd C.I.E. O.B.E., aged 92 years, husband of the late Kathleen (née Haworth), father of Delyth and John, grandfather of Christopher, Gareth, Tegid, Ann, Delyth and Carys. Funeral Service at Caldy Church, Wirral, on Monday December 29th at 2.30 pm. All enquiries to Quinns F/S, West Kirby, tel: (0151) 625-5274.

[illegible] - On December 18th William (Bill) aged 66 years of Devauden, Chepstow. Beloved husband of Amy, devoted father of Susan and John, Alison and Fay, dearly loved grandad of Tom, Max, Kirsty and Joe, much loved son of Josie. Funeral Service Wednesday December 24th, 12 noon at the Forest of Dean Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if so desired for the Institute of Electrical Engineers made payable to IEE, Benefactors Trust Fund may be sent to Mr S. Riding, Finance Branch I.E.E., Michael Faraday House, 6 Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2AY. Further enquiries to Philip Hatchley & Son, 5 Station Road, Chepstow. Tel: Chepstow 624989.

LOMER - Suddenly on December 19th, 1997, Richard Godfrey (Dick) Lomer, MC, aged 75. Beloved husband of Patricia and father of Charles and Jocelyn. Funeral Service 12 noon on Monday, December 29th, at Holy Trinity, Chantry. Family flowers only.

MORGAN - Dyfrig Gruffydd, former University Lecturer in Applied Plant Physiology and Senior Tutor of St John's College, Cambridge, died peacefully on 18th December after a long illness. Dear husband of Clara and father of John and Edwin. A Memorial Service will be arranged at a later date.

MORRELL - Dr. Percy James. Beloved husband of the late Helga. Died peacefully on December 21st. Much loved father of Sue and Annette and grandfather of Gavin, Toby, Philip and Tim. Funeral Service to take place at Robin Hood Crematorium on Monday January 5th at 2pm. Flowers, or donations for Everyman Appeal, for the Research and Treatment of Prostate Cancer to Thomas Bragg & Sons, 562 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 4AY.

MYCIELSKA - Countess Rosa in her hundredth year, on 19th December in São Paulo, Brazil. Mother of Elka and the late Joseph, grandmother of Lala and great-grandmother of Joanna and Josef.

PARSONS - John William CBE, aged 61 years. Suddenly on 20th December, 1997. Beloved husband of Sally-Anne and much loved father of Yasmin, Kim, Timothy, Dominic and Victoria. Dearest grandfather. Thanksgiving Service in the Church of St Edward the Martyr, Corfe Castle, Dorset on Friday 2nd January, 1998 at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request please. Donations to the 'Scripture Union', may be sent to Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd, St Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4QU. Tel: 01929 - 552107.

[illegible] - Edward died on 21st December 1997, after a short illness. Father of Annette, Charles, Laura and Rachel. Grandfather of Sarah, Katie, Miles, Edward, Boris, Natasha, Max, Cyrus and Milo. Private funeral in Switzerland. The Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

ROUSE - On December 22nd 1997 Arthur Rouse, MBE, JP, Major The South Lancashire Regiment (ret'd), Principal Westholme School, Blackburn 1950 - 1976. Funeral service at St Silas Church, Blackburn on Tuesday 30th December 1997 at 2 pm. No flowers, but donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C., 40, Wellington Street, (St John's), Blackburn, BB1 8AF. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Silas Church, Blackburn at 12-30 pm on Friday 30th January, 1998. Inquiries, The Alty Funeral Service, Witton, Blackburn. Tel: - 01254 51251.

SHANKS - Audrey (née Moore) died peacefully after a short illness on 21st December. Loving mother of Oliver. Will be fondly remembered by family and many friends. Service at Worth Crematorium on 29th December 1997 at 3 pm. At her request no flowers but donations in lieu if desired to RNLI c/o Fuller & Scott, [illegible], Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AJ. Tel: (01825) 763241.

STEWARD - Helen Barbara MBE, suddenly at Battle Hospital, Reading on Wednesday 17th December. She will be sadly missed both by her many cousins of several generations and numerous good friends. Thanksgiving Service at Remenham Church at 11.30am on Friday 2nd January, will follow the private cremation. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the British Red Cross Society Oxfordshire c/o Tomalin & Son, Anderson House, 38 Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1AG.

STUART - Dorothy Jean (née Cator) died peacefully on Friday December 19th aged 90. Funeral in Leintwardine at 2.15 pm on Monday December 29th, followed by cremation.

TAYLOR - Peacefully on December 20th 1997, Lois Mary, aged 87, a much loved wife and mother. Funeral private. No flowers please, but donations in lieu for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund will be received and acknowledged by F.C. Douch & Son, Funeral Directors, 7 Leigh Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1AB. Tel: 01202 882936.

VANDERVELL - Audrey Jean, suddenly but peacefully at home on Thursday 18th December. Beloved wife of the late Anthony, much loved mother of Susan and Jane, and devoted grandmother to Katie, Thomas, William, Henry, Alexander and Natasha, she will be sadly missed by her family and friends. The funeral service will held at St Anne's, Dropmore, on Monday 29th December at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, P O Box 123, 61 Lincolns Inn Field, WC2A 3PX.

WATKINSON - On December 19th 1997 John Leslie, dearly loved husband of Kate and loving father of Anne, Hilary, James and Emma. Service at St Peter's, Revelstoke, Noss Mayo, Devon, on 29th December at 10.30 am, followed by private burial at [illegible].

WILLEY - Vernon Joseph on 20th December 1997 unexpectedly in hospital. Dearly loved husband of Rosina (Rosie), father, grandfather and friend. Funeral Service Wednesday December 31st 11 am at All Saints Church, Elm Wood Road, Ealing Common, W5, followed by private cremation. Enquiries to W.S. Bond (0181) 567-0422.

WOOLF - On December 21st peacefully in her sleep at Hastings Conquest Hospital Katharine of Winchelsea, Sussex. Dear wife of the late Henry Woolf and missed by her family. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium on January 2nd 11.20 am. Family flowers only, donations to Rye Health and Care Limited c/o Ellis Bros, 3 Ferry Road, Rye.

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

THE MARQUESS OF HERTFORD

The 8th Marquess of Hertford died yesterday aged 67 after a brain tumour. He was born on March 29, 1930.

Like many aristocrats of his generation, the 8th Marquess of Hertford dedicated his life to his corner of British history: Ragley Hall at Alcester in Warwickshire. As his wife said, "Ragley Hall is a life sentence."

Ragley is a fine Palladian house built in the 1680s, noted especially for James Gibbs's 70ft Great Hall. Although he had to sell parts of an estate that originally included 8,000 acres of prime farmland, the 8th Marquess managed to pass on the house as an independent concern, "by faith and love" (as the family motto urges) — but only just. The house very nearly became one more victim of the inheritance-tax trap which stripped many families of the means to maintain their properties. In a letter to *The Times*, the marquess once protested at the prevailing postwar antipathy to the idea of passing on an inheritance for one's children to improve: "I do not understand, and I deeply resent, the fact that no Conservative politician now attempts to defend the interests of the next generation."

Hugh Edward Conway Seymour was the son of Brigadier-General Lord Henry Charles Seymour, the second son of the 6th Marquess. His mother was Lady Helen Frances Grosvenor, daughter of the Duke of Westminster.

After Eton and the Grenadier Guards, he succeeded his uncle in 1940, and found that he had inherited a costly asset. Ragley Hall has 80, or 100, or 115 rooms — depending whom you believe — and *throughout* the war it was used as a hospital. The family was confined to small quarters, where Lady Helen kept a bathful of hand-grenades as a last redoubt against invading Germans. As a result, during the 1950s the marquess spent a great deal of time repairing the fabric of the house, which had not been fully occupied since 1912.

In 1956 he married the Contesse Louise de Caraman Chimay, and they set about putting the house in order so as to open it to the public (initially at half-a-crown a time). They found gorgeous drapery rotting on the walls and beautiful furniture stacked in back rooms. Also in need of upkeep were 24 acres of garden, a maze, a park with a cricket pitch and a lake, a nature trail and an adventure wood. The marquess wrote a guidebook himself, and the Hall opened to the public in the summer of 1958. So beguiling are the house and its setting that 40,000 people visited in the first few months, even though the peacocks would eat the pinks.

Anxious that this new source of income be maintained, Lord Hertford began looking for new attractions. In France on honeymoon he and his wife had been impressed with a *son et lumière* display, and this was duly tried at Ragley, with a commentary spoken by Michael Redgrave. Horse trials and water-skiing displays were held on the estate, and later attractions at the house were to include a display of crowns and jewels labelled as "authentic replicas".

The marquess's principal interest for much of his life was necessarily in managing the estate, but he also enjoyed some other ancestral perks. One of his forebears had bought the 13th-century Conway Castle from Charles I, and when the castle was subsequently rented in the 19th century it was on condition that the Marquess of Hertford be given "a dish of fish ... whenever he passes through the town". Accordingly, Lord Hertford made a point of passing through, and was presented with a 5lb salmon by the mayor.

Despite the enormous popularity of country-house visiting, by the mid-1960s he was "gradually coming round" to offering the family seat to the National Trust. But then in June 1964 he dropped a bombshell. "Ragley Hall to be demolished" reported *The Times*. "It is a dreadful decision, but a final one. The house will remain open until the end of September. During the winter preparations will begin to pull it down and build a smaller house." At the time the house would have needed little pulling: it was all but falling down. The marquess had spent more than £100,000 on it in the previous few years, so depleting the family fortunes. Investments, land, family silver and even some of his wife's jewellery had been sold to keep the house going. The National Trust said that it would only take the house if it came with a lump sum, which the family simply did not have. "We have failed," said the marquess. "If we go on we shall in time be ruined. At the end of my life I would hand to my son a large, beautiful house with no money or land to support it. I think that would be wrong."

Fortunately, the outcry had an upshot. The Historic Buildings Council authorised grants of £18,000, which were followed by further public money, and the marquess was persuaded that the cause was not lost. In the spirit of his ancestors, he commissioned a *trompe l'oeil* mural for the south staircase from Graham Rust, the heir (to put it politely) of the artist and mural-painter Rex Whistler. Called *The Temptation*, and suggested by the Palladian Villa Masser at Vicenza, the mural took 14 years in all (1969-83), and was said to be the largest in England. It contains 29 friends and members of the family, including the UFO-spotter Lady Buchanan-Jardine, who points at the sky but fails to interest even a frescoed spaniel. Lord Hertford himself appears twice, once as naked Neptune sitting in a large shell. The odd-job man who walked in while he was posing was most affronted.

In 1968 the marquess was given £40,000 by the Ministry of Housing for improvements to the public areas of the house. He began with new plumbing and wiring, lest the rooms be flooded or burnt down. The need was pressing enough, for as he said, "every time we plug the vacuum in, everything gets red hot".

The marquess, who was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire in 1959, was for some years a member of the historic houses committee of the British Tourist Authority, and then president of the West Midlands Tourist Board. In particular, he successfully campaigned against the building of a motorway link-road across his land. "I don't believe tourists will continue coming to England just to see motorways — which they can see at home," he said. On the other hand, he began quarrying for sand and gravel.

During the general election of 1970, he caused a stir, as an active Tory peer, by urging Conservatives in Enoch Powell's constituency to vote Labour, because he abhorred and was appalled by Powell's attitude to immigration.

By the end of the 1970s, 118,000 visitors were coming to the house, but they were spending only 91p a head. And there were occasional problems of disappearing artefacts — a clock, tables, silver — during opening hours or from the commercial dinners in the Great Hall. Fourteen engraved sherry glasses were purloined in 1985 by visiting Americans, but recovered in the London Hilton.

History at Ragley Hall goes back well before the 17th century, for Alcester was once a Roman settlement. Roman remains on Hertford's land were scheduled as an ancient monument in 1962, and he was awarded £100,000 compensation, but in 1985 two fields were ploughed *up*. Remains just below the surface were inadvertently damaged, and the marquess was fined £4,000 after a prosecution brought by English Heritage.

During the 1990s the marquess and his wife became estranged, and she moved to a William and Mary cottage on the estate.

Earlier this year, the marquess publicly disagreed with William Hague about the Conservative Party's abandonment of the hereditary principle, when he argued pragmatically that the peers' experience played a valuable part in the legislature. "If, together with a peerage, you have inherited a large country estate, you have to learn a lot about farming, forestry, maintenance of houses and conversion of farm buildings," he said. "Many of us have learnt a lot about the tourist trade."

He is survived by his wife and their son and three daughters. His son, the Earl of Yarmouth, who took over Ragley Hall in 1991, succeeds to the title as the 9th Marquess.

BRUCE WOODCOCK

Woodcock (*left*) on his way to defeat against Jack Gardner in 1950

Bruce Woodcock, boxer, died in Doncaster yesterday aged 76. He was born on January 18, 1921.

THE death of Bruce Woodcock, the British heavyweight boxing champion from 1945 until 1950, marks the end of what was a golden age of boxing in this country. At the end of the last war, the sport boomed, with fighters like Woodcock, Freddie Mills (the former light heavyweight champion of the world at a time when there was only one world champion for every weight), Peter Kane, Jackie Paterson and Eric Boon all still active in the ring. This period also saw the rise of Randolph Turpin, whose career culminated in 1951 when he beat "Sugar" Ray Robinson for the world's middleweight title. But it was Woodcock, the Doncaster railwayman, who drew the crowds to Harringay, then the favourite venue of the cigar-smoking promoter Jack Solomons.

Bruce Woodcock was a small heavyweight who weighed little more than 13½ stone. Had he been fighting today, he would have undoubtedly won the Cruiserweight championship of the world, a weight level that then did not exist. Today's heavyweights are mastodons by comparison, often weighing-in at 17 stone or more. Woodcock won the Amateur Boxing Association's light heavyweight championship twice during *the war. As a railwayman in the* Doncaster Locomotive works of the LNER, he was in a reserved occupation. He turned professional in 1942 and won his first 19 fights by knockouts. In July 1945 he knocked out Jack London (the father of Brian London) to win the British and Empire title.

He won four more fights inside the distance when, in 1946, he was matched against the much more experienced, and larger American heavyweight contender Tami Mauriello at Madison Square Gardens, New York. It was a dreadful example of over-matching by his manager, Tom Hurst, and Woodcock, having won the first four rounds by good use of *his left jab*, was knocked out in the fifth by a right hand from the Italian-American. It was his first defeat and a significant one. Woodcock was at least two years away from being a contender for the title (then held by Joe Louis) and should have been brought along more carefully on a diet of less formidable Americans.

Woodcock was back in the ring in London in less than a month after his defeat when he outpointed Freddie Mills. Woodcock then won the European heavyweight title by knocking out Albert Renet of France in the sixth round. On September 17, 1946, Woodcock was matched with the then light heavyweight champion of the world, Gus Lesnevich, at Harringay Arena.

This was a sensible match as Woodcock outweighed Lesnevich by a stone. After an exciting contest which had 12,000 people on their feet cheering, Woodcock knocked out Lesnevich in the eighth round. It was the high spot of the Doncaster man's career.

Woodcock won three more fights inside the distance, defending his European title against the tough French-Pole, Stephan Olek. The ever-optimistic Tom Hurst then matched Woodcock against another American heavyweight every bit as formidable as Mauriello, the giant Pennsylvanian coal miner, Joe Baksi. Baksi broke Woodcock's jaw with a left hook thrown in the first round, but the Englishman fought back bravely until rescued by the referee in the seventh.

Woodcock, although he fought on for three years, never really recovered from his fight with the Polish-American. After the contest, Baksi went back to his native Poland where he spent several weeks celebrating his victory. Later in 1947 he failed to take his training seriously and was outpointed by a second-rate Swede, Ole Tandenburg, who would have been easy meat for Woodcock.

In 1948, Woodcock beat two American heavyweights inside the distance, Lee Oma and Lee Savold. He was to meet Savold again in the following year for what was billed in Britain at least as the heavyweight championship of the world, *Joe Louis having retired. But in 1949* Woodcock beat Johnny Ralph in South Africa in three rounds in defence of his Empire title, and in a fiercely fought contest for the European, British and Empire titles, knocked out the then light heavyweight champion of the world, Freddie Mills, in 14 rounds. In 1950, *Woodcock met Savold for a second time*, but was badly cut and retired in the fourth round.

His final fight was against the Guardsman Jack Gardner to whom he lost his titles in the 11th round. Once again facial injuries contributed to his defeat. Woodcock had 38 fights of which he won 34, all but two inside the distance.

At the time when Woodcock was fighting, boxing was a more popular sport than it is today. What television failed to cover the newspapers did, devoting an extraordinary amount of space to both Woodcock and to his popular rival, Freddie Mills. Woodcock was a good boxer in the conventional English sense; he possessed a neat left hand and a powerful right, but he was let down by his liability to facial injury (he cut easily), his slight build for a heavyweight even in those days, and by the fact that he was badly managed.

Disenchanted with boxing, Woodcock would have nothing more to do with the *sport. He never attended any reunion, nor* was he seen at ringside at any major event. He became a publican in his native Doncaster. His name appeared again in the newspapers a year or two ago, however, when he chased and caught two thieves who had been robbing his allotment. But in his heyday his punch and his courage endeared him to the sporting public, and with Henry Cooper, he became the most popular British heavyweight since the war. It is tantalising to wonder whether Woodcock's right would have proved more effective than Henry's famous left hook.

Bruce Woodcock married in 1947 Nora Speight. She survives him together with a *son and a daughter.*

RICHARD WARWICK

Richard Warwick, actor, died of Aids on December 16 aged 52. He was born on April 29, 1945.

ONE of the most attractive and graceful young actors of his generation, Richard Warwick showed in his later performances that he could pack a most emotional punch. The delightful *jeune premier* had his last theatre success playing a bereaved father in Keith Baxter's production of Patrick Hamilton's *Rope*, which moved from the Minerva Theatre in Chichester to the West End. In a play where the charm of the two young murderers looked dangerously like claiming the sympathy of the audience, his naked, keenly felt sense of loss turned them around to bring home the odiousness of the crime.

Born Richard Winter (he changed his name to avoid confusion with another Equity member), Warwick began life in Meopham, Kent, the third of four sons of an aeronautical engineer who was part of the Barnes Wallis team. The family *moved to Tigley in Gloucestershire when* he was young, and he was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and later at RADA.

In the cinema he had an early eye-catching role alongside Malcolm McDowell and David Wood, the "schoolboy stars" of Lindsay Anderson's controversial *If*. In Zefferelli's *Romeo and Juliet* he played one of the young servants who set off the brawl between the Montagues and Capulets with the "I bite my thumb at you" wrangle. Zefferelli later cast him as an officer in Mel Gibson's *Hamlet* and as Rochester's servant in *Jane Eyre*. Dick Lester engaged him for *The Bedsitting Room*.

The success of his performance in the title role in Andrew Sinclair's *The Breaking of Bumbo* was undermined by movie distribution difficulties. He made two films with Derek Jarman, *The Tempest* and, more significantly, *Sebastian*, Jarman's arresting account of the saint's martyrdom, filmed in Latin.

On the stage he was at times a member of the National Theatre, Young Vic and Cambridge Theatre companies. He appeared with Laurence Olivier and Geraldine McEwan in *The Dance of Death*, as Horatio in *Hamlet* and as Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal* with the Cambridge Theatre Company.

One of his most powerful theatre performances was as the son in Terence Rattigan's *In Praise of Love*, a double bill of two one-act plays, *Before Dawn* and *After Lydia*, with Donald Sinden and Joan Greenwood. When Rex Harrison starred in an extended version of the latter play, Rattigan was disappointed by the American actor in Warwick's role, and wanted Warwick for the part; he could not be released.

On television Warwick acted with a succession of leading ladies — Judy Dench (*A Fine Romance*) Joanna Lumley, *Jane Asher* and *Wendy Craig* (*I Love You, Mrs Patterson*) — all of whom adored him. A memorable early performance as Nicky Lancaster opposite Margaret Leighton in Noel Coward's *The Vortex* (1960) earned him the highest praise from the author, about whom he was as clear-eyed as he often was in his assessment of directors. "Noel doesn't understand anything about drugs," he said. "It's just a theatrical device."

During his long illness, when he was cared for at the Hospice of St John and Elizabeth in St John's Wood, he suffered a form of dementia triggered by the Aids virus, which fogged his mind but did not rob him of the essential sweetness of his *nature*.

PERSONAL COLUMN

XMAS GREETINGS

THE Rt.Hon.Baroness White of Rhymney sends warmest thanks and good wishes to many friends who have sent Christmas and New year greetings. She much regrets that with advancing years she can no longer reply individually, but is most grateful.

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THE MONSTER

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,-I differ from Sir John Squire. Every morning the word monster revives my disenchanted heart. Have we a romance-epidermis? Every morning it thrills and shudders and reacts and grows pink. Monster! What monsters have we in our lives but this one?

Like Sir John I long for conviction. Too many things have to be taken on trust — God, our after life, our own essential goodness. But if the Monster at least, the Sea-Serpent, the test creature whose name has stood for the Incredible, will scramble out on the shores of Loch Ness so that on the picture page of *The Times* ... I faint with hope.

But to its name. Monster. We have no monsters. We have men, animals, trees, but no monster at all since the days of fables. "Monstrous" is only a poor descent from monster, meaning fabulous in a horrifying *sense. Surely Sir John doesn't want to evict* "fabulous in a horrifying sense," from the practical Scottish horizon over whose rim it has barely yet raised its horned, its gilled, winged, bearded, maned, machicolated head? ...

I write this letter to beg Sir John and his public that they will not take away the Monster. Call him anything else and he will suffer. There is only one of his kind on our horizon to-day ... And as a Monster this traveller from pre-history has already headed three columns in *The Times*, has already lit the tumultuous dusk of the House of *Commons. Let him thus remain until his* Latin label is tied to him. For that, as in the garden, will disturb no one, and no one will remember it.

Yours obediently,
ENID BAGNOLD
North End House, Rottingdean.

ON THIS DAY

December 23, 1933

Sightings of a creature began when a road was built along Loch Ness. St Columba, in the sixth century, is said to have fought off a monster in the Loch. "Nessie" is still a tourist attraction.

Sir,-In his letter suggesting that it is high time the poor creature had a name, Sir John Squire throws out the suggestion that the Loch Ness monster may turn out to be a female "with or without a little brood of Munstquharsons." Of course, there cannot merely be a Mr MacNess. Wherever there is a sea-serpent there must also be a family. That is a point the writer has tried to impress upon believers and doubters alike.

Furthermore, I have conjured up for myself, as part of the Christmastide relaxation, a "sea serpent symphony", such as could be worthily put on record only by that favourite film-maker, Mr. Walt Disney. It may be a "silly symphony," but that it is to be numbered among the popular coloured symphonies goes without saying. It portrays the MacNess family enjoying the festive season in a romantic cavern somewhere beneath the Loch, with plenty of music and a symphonic coming and going of mermen and mermaids, and glimpses of many other denizens of the deep such as would be on social terms with the MacNess family complete with their folk songs and dances. The five policemen told off to protect "the monster" of the loch would somehow have found their way down below. There would be a great deal of monstrous laughter — and it would spring from talk about the queer humans up above who were still debating whether or not such a thing as a MacNess existed. Can you not hear them at it? I offer the idea to Mr Disney for what it is worth.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH DEAKIN.

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

NEWS

Labour 'defender of welfare state'

■ Gordon Brown went on the offensive against critics of Labour's welfare reforms, declaring that the "true defenders of the welfare state are those who are prepared to reform it".

In an interview with *The Times*, the Chancellor said that the war against poverty could only be won by modernisers, but he sought to reassure old Labour by promising that change would be carried out sensitively. There would be no "indiscriminate slash and burn exercise" .... **Page 1**

Disabled in Downing St paint protest

■ Twelve severely disabled people protesting against possible cuts in benefits were arrested after they spattered Downing Street with red paint, handcuffed themselves to the gates and accused Tony Blair of treating them as easy targets. They were released after being given formal warnings .... **Page 1**

BSE inquiry

Jack Cunningham announced a one-off £85 million emergency package for beef farmers and a year-long inquiry into the BSE crisis. He also paved the way for many farmers to leave the land .... **Pages 1, 4**

Fayed hopeful

Mohamed Al Fayed's application to become a British citizen is to be reconsidered. The Home Secretary is to abandon a challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling that the Conservative Government unlawfully rejected applications from the Harrods owner and his brother, Ali .... **Pages 1, 2**

Coal cuts

Thousands of retired miners and widows will receive less free coal from April. The Industry Department has told them that entitlements must be "rebalanced" to keep in line with European law .... **Page 1**

Leader's message

William Hague has delivered his Christmas broadcast to the Tory faithful with a promise of the biggest shake-up of the party in more than 100 years .... **Page 2**

Family feud

A teenager whose parents took him to court to keep him out of the family home after he threatened them will spend Christmas in a homeless shelter. He was sentenced to six months' probation for criminal damage .... **Page 3**

Strip tease

Housemistresses from the Godolphin girls' boarding school shocked pupils by going to a Chippendales strip show for their Christmas outing .... **Page 5**

Scargill out

Arthur Scargill is set to be disqualified as a trustee of two miners' welfare organisations after the Charity Commission found him guilty of misconduct over an £800,000 cash transfer .... **Page 6**

Pioneer boy dies

Stephen Hollis, who became Britain youngest heart and lung transplant patient seven years ago, has died aged ten .... **Page 7**

Communion row

Mary McAleese, the Roman Catholic Irish President, has stirred up controversy by taking communion in a Protestant cathedral in Dublin .... **Page 8**

Brezhnev plot

The former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev considered ordering the assassination of his predecessor Nikita Khrushchev in 1964, but lost his nerve and instigated a bloodless coup instead .... **Page 10**

Tables turned

Middle-class belt-tightening is taking its toll on French restaurants, leaving them trailing behind those in Britain. A gastronomic survey in *Le Monde* concludes: "London explodes, Paris sleeps" .... **Page 13**

Winning streak for Casino the swan

■ A Bewick's swan called Casino has set a record by returning to Britain for the 27th year. Casino has outlived two mates, Royale and Punter, and produced 32 cygnets — four of whom are spending Christmas with her at Slimbridge. Niven, Gambler and Dock arrived first while Croupier looked after their mother on the flight from Siberia .... **Page 9**

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

President Clinton leaving a bunker near Tuzla during a visit to Bosnia, where he is seen as the country's saviour. Report, page 11

BUSINESS

Diamonds: Turmoil in the Far East is having a disastrous impact on diamond sales, it emerged as the South African group Beers moved to position itself as an independent company .... **Page 21**

Housing: Confidence in the housing market has fallen sharply in the South but remains at its peak in the North .... **Page 21**

Luxury goods: The Swiss conglomerate Richemont is to press ahead with plans to take full control of Vendôme, the luxury goods group .... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 2.0 points to close at 5018.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 104.5 to 104.7 after a fall from $1.6690 to $1.6629 but a rise from DM2.9518 to DM2.9605 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Football: Jurgen Klinsmann returned to ease Tottenham Hotspur's Premiership problems in a £175,000 loan deal, two and a half years after his acrimonious departure .... **Page 40**

Sailing: The Swedish yacht *EF Language* took the lead in the Whitbread Round the World Race after winning the third leg, from Fremantle to Sydney .... **Page 37**

Equestrianism: Peter Charles, of Ireland, brought the Olympia showjumping championships to a stirring conclusion with a victory on Dolly .... **Page 37**

Racing: Graham Bradley looks forward to resuming his partnership with Suny Bay in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day .... **Page 33**

ARTS

Unholy babes: True to its tradition of resurrecting Victorian burlesque pantomime, the Players' Theatre unveils a *Macbeth*-inspired *Babes in the Wood* .... **Page 28**

Holy mother: A Renaissance *Madonna and Child* by Sebastiano del Piombo is on view after its purchase by the Fitzwilliam Museum, revealing disturbing symbolism .... **Page 29**

Music mission: How traumatised Bosnian children persuaded Luciano Pavarotti to overcome his dislike of helicopters and see his dream come true .... **Page 29**

Music marathon: The American conductor James Levine rounded off his Philharmonia concerts with a masterful peformance of Mahler's *Eighth Symphony* .... **Page 29**

FEATURES

Feast fears: For children with eating disorders, Christmas is a difficult time. But parents can help them to cope .... **Page 14**

Hope for Dorah: Generous readers are bringing hope to Dorah, the brave South African baby who defied death .... **Page 14**

Healthy Christmas: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on how to avoid post-revelry problems .... **Page 14**

Chat lines: Most men are dreadful at approaching women. But a study of female body language can save them from flirting with disaster .... **Page 15**

LAW

Loathsome lawyers: Why are lawyers so widely disliked? Fiona Bawdon is on the case .... **Page 31**

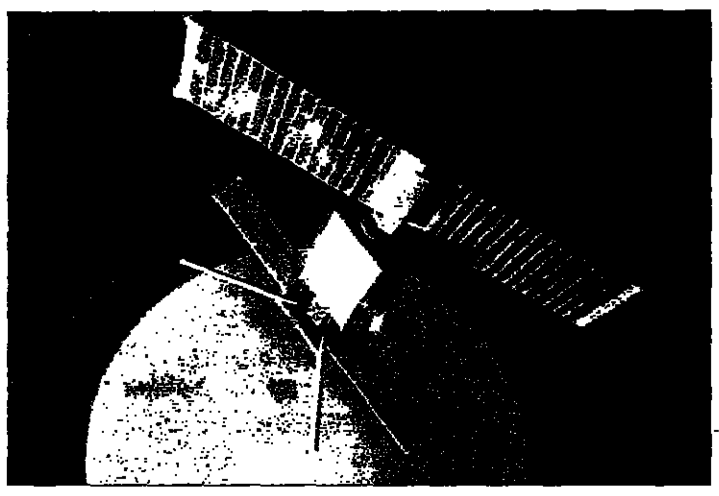
YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Festive planners: For small businesses specialising in Christmas products, the trick is to spread the work through the year .... **Page 30**

THE PAPERS

The IMF and the World Bank are trying to dictate policy to Russia, and in this light it is not surprising that the Communists liken it to a regime of occupation. The Kremlin, the Russian Government and bureaucrats are not ready for democracy. They are lackeys temporarily holding the reins of power

—*Nezavisimaya Gazeta*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE

The weekly IT section finds modern technology bringing new hope for peace on Earth

■ HOMES

Why this is a good time to think about buying a chalet in a French snow resort

TV & RADIO

Preview: He dressed the famous but eschewed fame — *Secret Lives: Versace* (Channel 4, 9.30pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph on the hotel that treats its guests as though they were the enemy .... **Pages 38, 39**

OPINION

Selective cull

The case for a searching inquiry is powerful. This has been an extraordinary and exceptionally expensive story .... **Page 17**

Off the ground

Like Concorde and Airbus, other multinational aviation projects that appeared doomed during development, Eurofighter is both justified in its mission and of immense consequence to the competitiveness and innovation of Western defence. After years of squabbling, it has now, finally, taken off .... **Page 17**

Ho, Ho, Hi

While British mums have scoured high streets for Teletubbies, American moms have tramped main streets for another sweet yet cloying celebration of the full stomach — the traditional Christmas pudding .... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

I suddenly see the pleasure of the Millennium Dome. It has to be ready on time, or it is pointless .... **Page 16**

DAVID SELBOURNE

Only those familiar with Italian mores could understand the mistrust, often justified, in which Italians hold one another, while Italian scholarship is a byword for bad faith, corruption, and indolence .... **Page 16**

CONRAD RUSSELL

Mr Blair believes he can reduce the social security budget by changing the social security system. That is a bad case of shooting the messenger .... **Page 16**

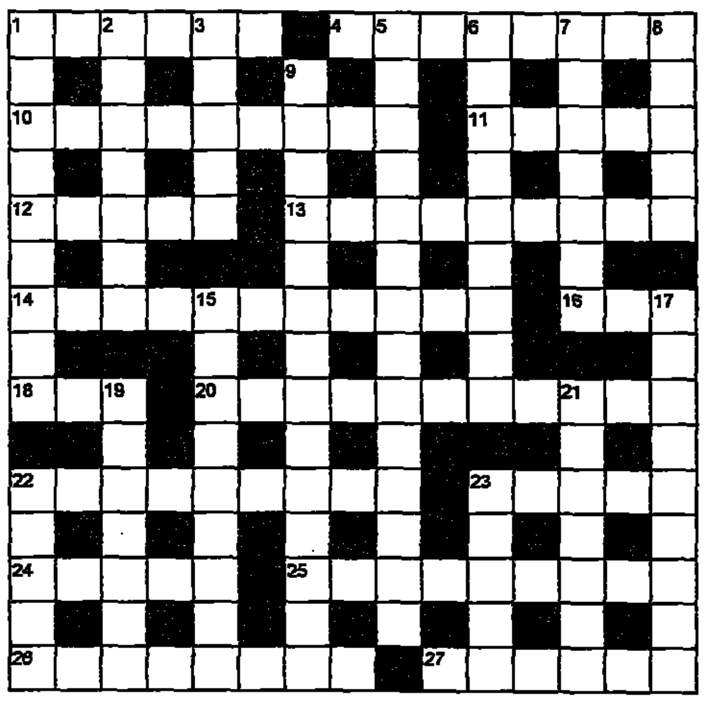
OBITUARIES

The Marquess of Hertford, landowner; **Bruce Woodcock**, boxer; **Richard Warwick**, actor .... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Labour's economic conflicts; Irish President; Messiah message; Turkey and Cyprus; Jacob of Ancona; Moscow temperatures; Rudolph's role; Christmas stocking mouse .... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,670



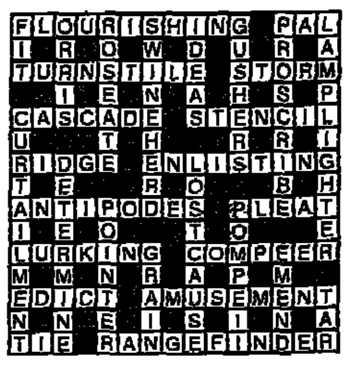
ACROSS

1 Perform in pantomime horse, perhaps? That creates interest (6).
4 Bob turns awkward, being obstinate (8).
10 Plenty of cake available during a ball (9).
11 Employment exchange (5).
12 Combination of metals used in weapon (5).
13 Formerly agreeing with great healer (2,3,4).
14 Complaint that's not strictly for the birds? (11).
16 Bow found in Africa, oddly (3).
18 Toy revolver (3).
20 Progress is limited here, in high-rise locality? (5-2,4).
22 Quick to take action (9).
23 Work of monumental stupidity? (5).
24 One breaks a little back bone (5).
25 Like a high-flier, able to take long view? (5-4).
26 Change at Naples for Nice (8).
27 Island's anchorage in the sound (6).

DOWN

1 Dangerous situation that frightened buccaneer to death (5,4).
2 He was bound to begin (but not finish) his performance (7).
3 House deposit (5).
5 Novel series adapted for the stage, say (3,7,4).
6 Uses soft soap, as fatty stuff's increased in price (7,2).
7 Like an egg, it's blown (7).
8 Annie celebrates having this other girl in the family (5).
9 The deep South? (9,5).
15 Supported by runners, they turn up at the front (9).
17 Cautious bids in order — many found it hard to pass (9).
19 River put on list suitable for drinking (7).
21 As result of special deal, English railway passed through another station (7).
22 Drunk started smoking (3,2).
23 Hard worker on land turning up in novel (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,669



Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, -1C (30F); highest rainfall: Penzance, 0.71in; highest sunshine: Edinburgh 5.1hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Rain in eastern England will slowly clear during the morning but it will stay mostly cloudy with only limited bright spells. Cloudy over western England and Wales; after a dry morning, rain will move into most areas during the afternoon.

Southern and western Scotland will turn wet and quite windy this afternoon. Northeast Scotland will start dull and damp, with only a few dry periods, before more rain arrives this evening.

Northern Ireland will have rain on and off all day. The Irish Republic will be rainy in the morning, drier in the afternoon, and wet again in the evening.

Tonight, very mild everywhere with heavy rain or showers in the north and west, but the east and south will be much drier with occasional patchy drizzle or light rain.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, Cent N, E England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Isles:** Mostly dull apart from a few bright intervals this morning. Patchy light rain or drizzle later. Moderate southwest breeze. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **SW, NW, NE England, S Wales, N Wales, Lakes, IoM:** Mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle developing by afternoon, heavy on the hills. Freshening southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** Mostly dry at first but rather cloudy. Heavy rain later this afternoon. Strengthening southerly wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Mostly cloudy with rain. A little drier by afternoon, but more rain later. Moderate southeasterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Ireland:** Heavy rain clearing northeast during the morning, but more heavy rain will spread from the south this evening. Strong southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** Patchy mist or fog, then rain from west. Brighter and mainly dry in afternoon, wet again later. Fresh or strong south or southwest winds. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** Mild but rather unsettled with rain and strong winds at times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

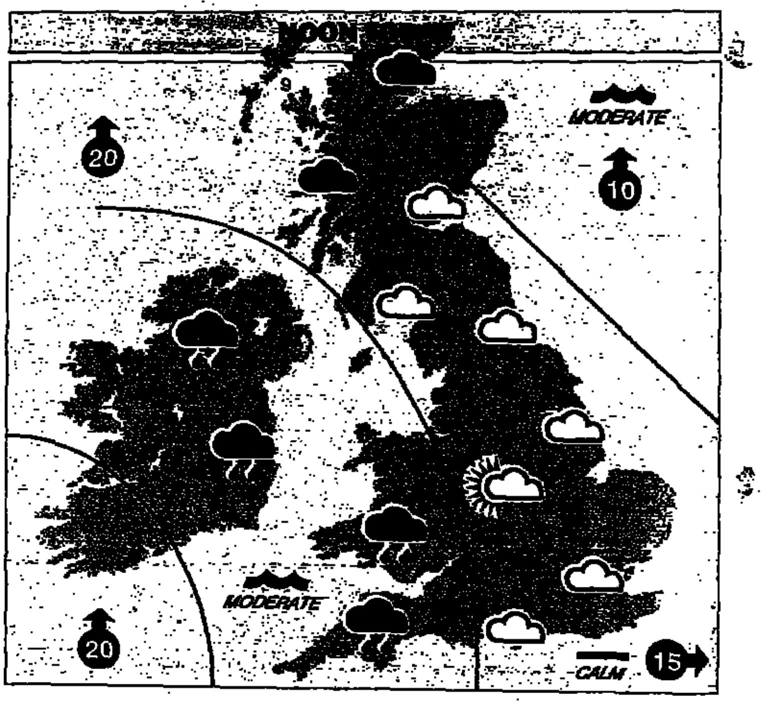
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.01	7	45	d
Anglesey	-	0.12	8	46	r
Aspatria	0.6	-	7	45	c
Aviemore	-	-	-1	30	fg
Belfast	-	0.07	9	48	r
Birmingham	-	-	6	43	c
Bognor R	-	0.01	9	48	c
Bournem'th	-	0.09	9	48	r
Bristol	-	0.15	9	48	r
Buxton	-	0.01	4	39	fg
Cardiff	-	0.34	8	46	r
Clacton	-	-	6	43	du
Cleethorpes	-	-	6	43	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.17	8	46	r
Cromer	-	0.01	6	43	c
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	-	9	48	c
Edinburgh	5.1	0.02	5	41	fg
Eskdalemuir	0.2	0.01	5	41	c
Exmouth	-	0.09	9	48	d
Falmouth	-	0.37	12	54	r
Fishguard	-	0.12	7	45	r
Folkestone	-	-	7	45	c
Glasgow	0.2	0.01	6	43	fg
Guernsey	-	0.09	10	50	r
Hastings	-	-	8	46	c
Hayling I	-	0.01	9	48	r
Herne Bay	-	-	7	45	du
Hove	-	-	9	48	du
Hunstanton	X	0.02	6	43	fg
Isle-of-man	-	0.02	8	46	r
Isle-of-wight	-	0.02	8	46	r
Jersey	-	0.04	7	45	sh
Kinloss	4.3	-	6	43	fg
Leeds	-	0.01	5	41	d
Lerwick	0.3	0.02	8	46	sh
Leuchars	1.2	0.01	6	43	fg
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	9	48	du
London	-	0.01	9	48	c
Lowestoft	-	-	7	45	c
Manchester	-	-	7	45	c
Margate	-	-	7	45	du
Minehead	-	0.17	8	46	sh
Morecambe	-	-	7	45	du
Newcastle	-	-	5	41	du
Newquay	-	0.22	11	52	sh
Norwich	-	0.01	6	43	du
Oxford	-	0.01	7	45	du
Penzance	X	0.71	12	54	sh
Poole	-	0.07	9	48	r
Prestatyn	X	0.04	7	45	r
Ross-o-wye	-	0.03	8	46	r
Salcombe	X				
Saunton Snd	-	0.19	8	46	sh
Scarboro'	-	0.01	5	41	du
Shrewsbury	-	0.03	7	45	r
Skegness	-	0.01	6	43	c
Southend	-	0.01	7	45	d
Southport	-	0.01	7	45	d
Southsea	-	0.04	9	48	r
Stornoway	4.7	0.01	8	46	s
Swanage	-	0.04	9	48	r
Teignmouth	X				
Tenby	-	0.29	9	48	sh
Tiree	-	0.01	9	48	r
Torquay	-	0.17	10	50	r
Tynemouth	X				
West-s-mare	-	0.26	7	45	r

ABROAD

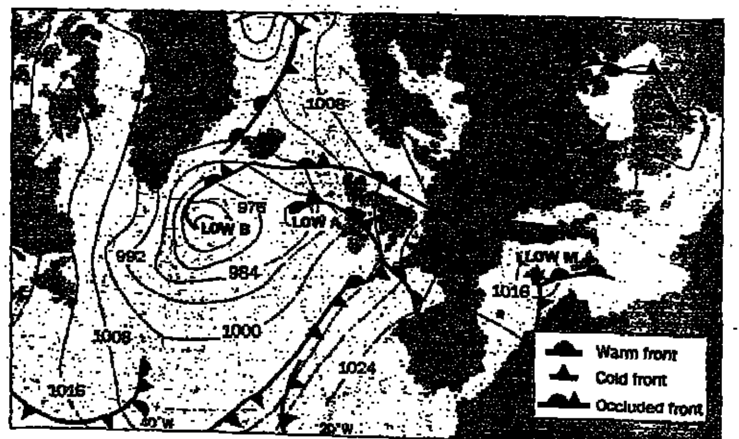
	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	r
Akrotiri	16	61	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f
Algiers	17	63	f
Amst'dm	4	39	r
Athens	16	61	f
B Aires	20	68	f
Bahrain	19	66	f
Bangkok	34	93	f
Barbados	30	86	f
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beirut	17	63	f
Belgrade	10	50	s
Berlin	1	34	r
Bermuda	19	66	f
Biarritz	13	55	f
Borde'x	13	55	f
Brussels	3	37	r
Budapst	3	37	c
Cairo	18	64	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s
Ch'church	15	59	X
Chicago	2	36	s
Cologne	0	32	sn
Corfu	16	61	f
C'phagn	2	36	c
Dublin	9	48	f
Dubrovnik	13	55	f
Faro	16	61	r
Florence	13	55	c
Frankfurt	2	36	r
Funchal	22	72	f
Geneva	7	45	s
Gibraltar	17	63	f
Helsinki	-3	27	c
Hong K	21	70	c
Innsbrck	6	43	f
Istanbul	12	54	f
Jeddah	29	84	s
Jo'burg	28	82	f
L Angels	12	54	f
L Palmas	22	72	s
Le Touqt	9	48	f
Lisbon	16	61	r
Locarno	5	41	f
Luxembg	3	37	r
Luxor	23	73	s
Madrid	9	48	c
Majorca	16	61	s
Malaga	15	59	f
Malta	17	63	s
Melb'rne	30	86	s
Mexico C	X		
Miami	26	79	f
Milan	7	45	c
Montreal	-11	12	X
Moscow	-11	12	c
Munich	6	43	r
N Delhi	11	52	f
N York	3	37	s
Nairobi	X		
Naples	11	52	f
Nice	10	50	s
Oslo	-1	30	c
Paris	5	41	c
Peking	1	34	f
Perth	30	86	s
Prague	4	39	f
Reykjavik	7	45	f
Rhodes	15	59	f
Rio de J	31	88	s
Riyadh	16	61	s
Rome	15	59	f
S Fr'sco	9	48	s
Salzburg	6	43	c
Santiago	17	63	c
Seoul	11	52	f
Sing'por	29	84	r
St'kholm	-1	30	c
Strasb'rg	5	41	r
Sydney	34	93	s
Tangier	17	63	f
Tel Aviv	17	63	s
Tenerife	23	73	s
Tokyo	14	57	s
Toronto	-2	28	s
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	15	59	f
Vanc'ver	3	37	s
Venice	8	46	fg
Vienna	2	36	d
Warsaw	2	36	r
Wash'ton	7	45	s
Wel'ngton	16	61	X
Zurich	6	43	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday X = not available

NOON



Changes to chart below from noon: low A moves north, with little change in central pressure. Low B drifts northeast, and fills. Low M drifts southeastwards, towards Malta, slowly filling



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	07.41	5.7	20.26	5.9
Aberdeen	08.13	3.4	20.27	3.5
Avonmouth	00.52	9.5	13.21	9.7
Belfast	05.45	2.8	17.51	3.1
Cardiff	00.38	9.0	13.07	9.1
Devonport	11.44	4.4	-	-
Dover	05.14	5.4	18.06	5.2
Dublin (N Wall)	06.31	3.4	18.50	3.6
Falmouth	11.15	4.2	-	-
Greenock	06.59	2.8	18.30	3.1
Harwich	05.24	3.2	18.22	3.2
Holyhead	05.01	4.4	17.20	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	-	-	12.51	6.7
Ilfracombe	-	-	12.27	7.0
King's Lynn	00.04	5.1	13.19	4.8
Leith	09.10	4.5	21.36	4.5
Liverpool	05.31	7.2	17.59	7.4
Lowestoft	03.21	2.3	17.03	2.2
Margate	05.57	3.9	18.53	3.9
Milford Haven	00.10	6.1	12.42	5.3
Newquay	11.43	5.4	-	-
Oban	00.14	2.9	12.59	3.1
Penzance	11.15	4.4	-	-
Portland	00.42	1.3	12.51	1.3
Portsmouth	06.01	3.9	18.21	3.7
Shoreham	05.19	5.0	17.58	4.8
Southampton	05.07	3.9	17.27	3.7
Swansea	00.10	7.2	12.42	7.3
Tees	10.29	4.3	22.45	4.4
Walton-on-N	05.27	3.3	18.23	3.3

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon sets 12.43 pm
Moon rises 1.04 am

New moon December 29

London 3.55 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.05 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.41 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 8.20 am

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

BUSINESS
Test your knowledge in our City quiz
PAGE 25

LAW
Why are the media so hard on lawyers?
PAGE 31

SPORT
Klinsmann makes hero's return to White Hart Lane
PAGES 33-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

Factors up for sale by Lloyds TSB

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

LLOYDS TSB has hung a "for sale" sign on International Factors, its subsidiary and one of the country's leading discount and factoring groups.

Bank of New York, which runs a leading commercial finance operation in North America, has been widely tipped as the buyer after its acquisition of two smaller UK factoring businesses during the summer.

International Factors, based in Brighton and employing about 500 people, is understood to be the biggest of the four factoring and discounting businesses within the Lloyds TSB fold.

In spite of its size, senior managers at the bank are believed to favour a second factoring subsidiary, Alex Lawrie, because they feel the firm has a superior client list and a better reputation. As a result, they have decided to sell International Factors.

Meanwhile, another subidsidiary, TSB Factors, is being absorbed within the fourth factoring business, TSB Commercial Finance, which specialises in invoice discounting, a practice increasingly used to fund corporate expansion, management buyouts and buy-ins.

Bank of New York declined to comment yesterday on its interest in International Factors, but a spokesman said the bank had made little secret of its desire to expand its European operations.

City analysts said the disposal of International Factors made clear sense for Lloyds TSB as the group continues to seek to strip out non-core businesses and eliminate any duplication caused by the merger of the two banks.

In an earlier housekeeping exercise in September, Lloyds TSB sold Business Technology Finance, an office equipment leasing subsidiary, to Newcourt Credit of Canada for £235 million, making a clear profit of £40 million on the deal.

The £40 billion-a-year factoring and discounting market is dominated by the subsidiaries of three high street banks: Alex Lawrie/International Factors, Midland Bank's Griffin and Natwest's Lombard. The Factors and Discounters Association says the market has grown nearly 20 per cent per annum in recent years.

Richemont bid values Vendôme at £3.5bn

By Dominic Walsh

RICHEMONT, the Swiss conglomerate controlled by the Rupert family of South Africa, is to press ahead with plans to take full control of Vendôme, the luxury goods group, despite the worsening Asian financial crisis.

Vendôme, which is already 70 per cent owned by Richemont, is heavily dependent on the Japanese and Far Eastern markets for sales of its prestige brands such as Cartier, Alfred Dunhill and Piaget, and its shares have been buffeted by the recent turmoil. The shares fell from a high this year of 542½p to a low of 325½p before their recent rally.

Last month, Richemont announced that it was in talks over a £1.04 billion bid to buy out the minority shareholders in Vendôme, but gave warning at the time that it might not proceed in the event of any further collapse in world markets.

Yesterday, the boards of the two groups unveiled a recommended offer that puts a total value of £3.45 billion on Vendôme, which is chaired by Joseph Kanoui. Changes to the terms set out in November provide a loan note alternative to the 495p-a-share cash offer and a special interim dividend of 5p, payable on completion, probably in April.

The board of independent directors, which is headed by Lord Douro, deputy chairman of Vendôme, and was set up to consider the offer on behalf of minority shareholders, also recommended the bid yesterday. For the deal to go through, it must be approved by 75 per cent of minority shareholders, although analysts believe there is unlikely to be much opposition.

Mercury Asset Management, with about 5 per cent, is expected to accept the offer when it is put to a shareholder vote in February.

Johann Rupert, chief executive, said he was well aware of the potential dangers from the Asian crisis, but noted that building luxury brands was a long-term business. "I'm not overly enthused by what I see over there (Asia), but this is a business that operates on a ten to 15-year timespan. Maybe we'll suffer, but I hope not as much as we fear."

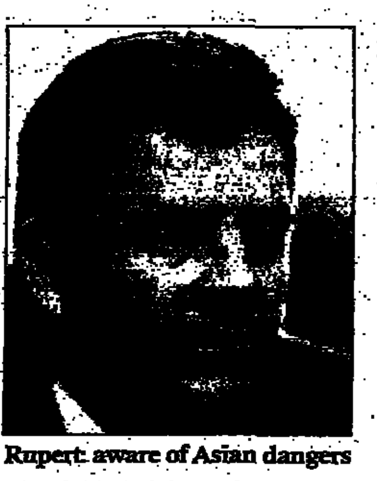
He said that Vendôme's experiences had raised the question of whether luxury goods groups should operate in the public arena when the short-term demands of six-monthly results were at odds with the long-term needs of brand development.

Mr Rupert rejected suggestions that he was taking advantage of the group's weak share price, noting that Vendôme shares closed at a high on the Swiss Stock Exchange. The 495p offer is a 26 per cent premium over the 393½p close in London before the approach. Yesterday, the shares gained 16p to 477½p.

The independent directors, who were advised by Schroders, said they had recommended the offer after taking account of "the increasingly uncertain environment in which Vendôme operates and the fact that many of the brands would require significant investment over the next few years". Mr Rupert said investment plans would be decided in the new year.

Vendôme became a separately listed company in 1993, when Richemont reorganised its tobacco and luxury goods portfolio. Richemont, which is quoted in Switzerland, with a secondary listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, has a two-thirds interest in Rothmans International and a 15 per cent stake in Canal Plus, the French pay TV group.

Far East worries, page 22
Commentary, page 23



Rupert: aware of Asian dangers

Lord Douro, left, and Joseph Kanoui believe the bid is right for shareholders

Three in running to replace Bishop at Channel 4

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE contest to replace Sir Michael Bishop as chairman of Channel 4 has come down to a race between Vanni Treves, the Italian-born business lawyer, and Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, the international music group.

The third person on the shortlist is Howard Dyer, who is non-executive chairman of Hamleys, the toy retailer, executive chairman of Ascot Holdings and non-executive chairman of New Look, the fashion house.

The successor to Sir Michael, who runs British Midland Airways, is expected to be announced in January.

Mr Treves, 57, is the senior partner of the City law firm Macfarlanes. His clients include John Paul Getty II and the family trusts of Richard Branson. He is a governor of London Business School, leads fund-raising for the National Portrait Gallery and chairs three quoted companies.

The favourite is probably Sir Colin, who has made no secret of his desire for the job. His experience in the music industry with its reliance on intellectual property rights and the rapid move towards digital technology would help, as would his previous experience with commercial television, when Thorn EMI owned Thames Television.

Continuing heavyweight business experience would be a help at Channel 4, which faces a number of tough business decisions next year — including the launching of new digital terrestrial channels.

There have been reports that Sir Colin's name may also be in the frame for the chairmanship of the Royal Opera House and if both were available it is not clear which he would chose.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5018.2	(-2.0)
Yield	3.23%	
FTSE All share	2360.10	(-1.18)
Nikkei	14799.40	(-515.49)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7768.99	(+12.70)*
S&P Composite	948.97	(+2.19)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	[illegible]%*	([illegible]%)
Long Bond	103 [illegible]*	(102 [illegible])
Yield	5.90%*	(5.92%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 [illegible]%	(7 [illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	121 [illegible]	(121 [illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6620*	(1.6703)
London:		
$	1.6633	(1.6685)
DM	2.9616	(2.9513)
FFr	9.9113	(9.8886)
SFr	2.3909	(2.3845)
Yen	216.88	(215.19)
£ Index	104.7	(104.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7790*	(1.7770)
FFr	5.9545*	(5.9500)
SFr	1.4375*	(1.4355)
Yen	130.25*	(129.40)
$ Index	108.7	(108.0)

Tokyo close Yen 130.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$17.50	($17.65)

GOLD

London close	$291.45	($288.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Slowdown

Consumer spending slowed sharply in the third quarter, contributing to a small downward revision to overall growth in the period, according to the Office for National Statistics.
Page 22, Commentary 23

Nursing homes

BUPA, the medical insurance group, is about to become Britain's biggest nursing home operator after winning control of Care First yesterday with an increased bid of £273 million.
Page 23

De Beers plans to go it alone

By Jon Ashworth

TURMOIL in the Far East is having a disastrous impact on diamond sales, it emerged yesterday as De Beers, the South African diamond group, moved to position itself as an independent company.

Second-half sales of rough diamonds by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), the De Beers marketing arm in London, were 30 per cent down on the first half of 1997, at $1.76 billion and 16 per cent down on the same period in 1996. Overall sales for 1997 were down 4 per cent at $4.64 billion, in line with forecasts.

The figures were unveiled in Johannesburg by Nicholas Oppenheimer and Gary Ralfe, who become chairman and managing director respectively of De Beers from January 1. Describing 1997 as a "roller-coaster of a year", Mr Ralfe said the CSO would restrict the flow of uncut gems in an attempt to maintain prices.

Much depends on what happens in Japan, which speaks for about 25 per cent of world diamond consumption, compared with America's 35 per cent. Economic problems, coupled with a weakening of the yen against the dollar (De Beers prices its products in dollars) left sales in Japan 30 per cent lower in dollar terms.

South East Asia was hard hit by currency devaluations and economic turmoil. Mr Ralfe said: "The effect upon the diamond market has been dramatic." Prospects were more buoyant in America, but sellers have flooded the market, driving down prices and profit margins. There was an improvement in Europe, but not enough to compensate for Japan and South East Asia.

De Beers is breaking free from Anglo American, its long-standing bed-fellow, as part of a "tidying up" exercise aimed at simplifying the Anglo group structure. All Anglo's diamond activities will be concentrated in De Beers, which will be a free-standing organisation.

Anglo is selling its direct shareholding in De Beers to Anglo American Investment Trust (Anamint). It will hold 67 per cent in Anamint, which will in turn hold 34 per cent in De Beers and 31 per cent in Centenary, the company's Swiss-registered offshoot. De Beers will remain the largest shareholder in Anglo.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the Anglo chairman, said the move made strategic sense, and was in line with shareholders' wishes.

Tempus, page 24

DIRECT LINE
INSTANT ACCESS
ACCOUNT

Revised interest rates effective from 1st January 1998.

BALANCE	NEW INTEREST RATES	
	PAID ANNUALLY (GROSS %)	PAID MONTHLY (GROSS %)
£1–£4,999	5.80	5.65
£5,000–£9,999	6.15	5.98
£10,000–£24,999	7.00	6.79
£25,000–£49,999	7.05	6.83
£50,000–£99,999	7.15	6.93
£100,000+	7.25	7.02

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Formula One gets Europe deadline

By Jason Nissé

KAREL VAN MIERT, the European Competition Commissioner, has given the Formula One motor racing industry three weeks to change its financial arrangements or face legal proceedings.

A spokesman said the EU had serious doubts that various arrangements between Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), which runs the sport, and Formula One Holdings, the company run by Bernie Ecclestone, complied with European competition law.

The action throws into doubt Mr Ecclestone's attempts to float Formula One, which was supposed to come to market in July with a £1.5 billion price tag but has yet to set a formal flotation date. Mr Ecclestone — whose £1 million gift to the Labour Party was returned to him — recently said the float could not take place until the EU had finished its investigations.

One of the key contracts causing concern was struck at the beginning of this year and secures Formula One Holdings all the commercial rights to the sport until the year 2010, including televsion revenues.

At the weekend Mr Van Miert gave an interview to a Belgian newspaper, in which he attacked financial arrangements in the sport. "Mr Ecclestone has had Formula One to himself now for 15 years," said Mr Van Miert. "A number of rulings are in the pipeline."

Commentary, page 23

South hit by housing slowdown

By Susan Emmett

CONFIDENCE in the housing market has fallen sharply in the South but remains at its peak in the North, according to a report published today by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Figures for the three months to the end of November show that the slowdown is not just a pre-Christmas lull. The number of surveyors reporting a rise in prices has more than halved nationally since this time last year as the cumulative effect of interest rate rises begins to bite.

However, in contrast to the usual picture, the slowdown has hit the South hardest, with the North stable. London is the only exception, with increasing numbers of surveyors still reporting rising prices.

Professionals to face one-off tax

By Jon Ashworth

LAWYERS, accountants, and other professionals face paying up to £200 million in a one-off tax, under controversial changes proposed by the Government.

The changes, described as tantamount to a windfall tax on professional firms, were described as "probably the worst Christmas present" the Government could have come up with. The Inland Revenue insisted the move was about "levelling the playing field" and ensuring that everyone was taxed on the same basis.

The Government is to withdraw the "cash basis" practices available to partnerships, giving rise to a "catching-up charge" in 1998-99. Firms which account on the basis of cash received or bills paid, will have to factor in work in progress and outstanding bills. The charge could total £100 million to £200 million.

Dawn Primarolo, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said the "cash basis" gave some firms an unfair advantage. The change would "level the playing field for all businesses and correct an anomaly for which there is no justification".

Denise Catterall, tax partner in Coopers & Lybrand, said: "This is probably the worst Christmas present that partners in professional practice could have been given by the Government. In a way, it is not dissimilar to a windfall tax."

Partners face significant bills. Comments are invited by February 14.

Nikkei falls below 15,000 as Far East worries continue

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

ASIAN markets suffered another dismal session after four countries saw their sovereign debt downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, the international credit rating agency, three of them to junk bond status.

This latest blow to confidence in the Far East came hard on the heels of news that the International Monetary Fund had slashed its economic forecasts for the region. It virtually halved its forecast for Japanese growth next year from 2.1 per cent, estimated as recently as in October, to 1.1 per cent in its latest report.

Moody's said yesterday that it had downgraded the foreign currency ceiling for bonds and bank deposits of Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea. It also downgraded Thailand's foreign currency ceiling for bonds and confirmed the ceiling for bank deposits.

It said that its move was in response to worries about South Korea's short-term foreign currency financing needs, concern about the ability of Indonesia's corporate sector's ability to meet its foreign debt obligations and Malaysia's vulnerability to regional financial troubles. Moody's also lowered the ratings on 20 South Korean banks and on some of the country's largest firms. All were lowered to Ba1, one level above junk bonds.

The unremitting diet of bad news depressed Asian currencies and stock markets. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index closed below 15,000 for the first time in more than two years. The index lost 515.49 points, to close at 14,799.40.

The negative impact on the Japanese economy of troubles in its key regional markets was highlighted by yesterday's announcement by Toyota that it was halting production at its two car plants in the Philippines for a month to reduce stocks. Car sales in the Philippines have fallen 12.5 per cent over the past year.

In Seoul, the Korean stock exchange suspended trading in the shares of four companies because of rumours that they were about to default on their debts.

Today, the Finance Ministry is opening up the short-term bond market to foreign investment, but conditions could hardly be worse. Yields on three-month corporate bonds closed at 30 per cent yesterday, but still did not attract any buyers.

Wall Street shrugged off Asia'a latest troubles, bouncing by more than 80 points in initial trading as traders jumped into the market again after Friday's losses of 90 points. In London, the FTSE 100 index lost 2.0 points, to close at 5,018.2.

Consumer spending slows

CONSUMER spending slowed sharply in the third quarter, contributing to a small downward revision to overall growth in the period, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Consumer spending grew 0.7 per cent in the three months from July to September, compared with 1.6 per cent in the second quarter.

City economists said that some of this slowdown could be attributed to mourning for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Nevertheless, this period also saw a £6 billion payout by the Woolwich Building Society. Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said that the figures proved that windfalls were being saved, not spent.

Overall gross domestic product grew 0.8 per cent in the third quarter, revised down from 0.9 per cent.

Separate figures showed that Britain recorded a current account surplus of £473 million in the third quarter, down from a surplus of £1.44 billion in the second.

Commentary, page 23

Warning at biotech business

By Paul Durman

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the biotechnology company whose shares slumped when it failed to secure a deal with Johnson & Johnson, has given warning that its sales are being held back by its attempts to find alternative distribution, and it is heading for an increased second-half loss.

The company is relying on national distributors to market its stents, the miniature devices used to hold open blood vessels. However, Alistair Taylor, chief executive, says these local firms are reluctant to promote the product because they expect Biocompatibles to appoint a large international distribution partner.

Stent sales grew but overall sales will not meet directors' forecasts. Biocompatibles said its second-half loss will exceed the £11.4 million it lost in the six months to June.

The company said it recently began a second round of negotiations with potential partners for its stents and other cardiovascular devices. Mr Taylor said they include Johnson & Johnson, which remains interested in Biocompatibles' body-friendly medical coating, known as PC. The shares fell 17½p to 460p. They were £14.20 before the Johnson & Johnson deal fell apart in September.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.47
Austria Sch	21.81	20.15
Belgium Fr	64.22	59.28
Canada $	2.507	2.319
Cyprus Cyp£	0.911	0.839
Denmark Kr	11.86	10.97
Finland Mkk	9.50	8.75
France Fr	10.37	9.59
Germany Dm	3.12	2.88
Greece Dr	492	453
Hong Kong $	13.71	12.51
Iceland	131	111
Ireland Pt	1.20	1.11
Israel Shk	6.27	5.82
Italy Lira	3077	2840
Japan Yen	231.63	214.10
Malta	0.683	0.624
Netherlds Gld	3.525	3.230
New Zealand $	3.02	2.78
Norway Kr	12.73	11.79
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.77	7.82
Spain Pta	261.79	243.00
Sweden Kr	13.73	12.63
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Turkey Lira	343062	323184
USA $	1.769	1.626

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Burford in Mayfair acquisition

By Carl Mortished

BURFORD HOLDINGS has acquired a large property in Mayfair for almost £100 million. The property group, which recently suffered the departure of Nick Leslau, its high-profile chief executive, has acquired Mayfair Place, an island block bounded by Stratton Street and Berkeley Street, comprising two buildings totalling 256,000 sq ft.

Burford is paying Norwich Union £99.75 million for the property, which generates £7.41 million in rent, equating to a yield of 7.4 per cent. John Andersen, Burford's new chief executive, said: "We are buying Mayfair off low rents at a time when prime office rents in the West End are now £50 per sq ft and investment yields are as low as 5 per cent."

Meanwhile, Greycoat is selling a half share in 1 Great St Helens, its City office development, to Scottish Life in a property swap involving the acquisition by Greycoat of the insurer's office and retail investment at 36 Poultry. Current market rents value Great St Helens at £30-40 million.

Michael Hepher should see "business as usual" at Charterhouse after the change

Charterhouse stake sold

BHF-BANK of Germany is selling its 50 per cent share in Charterhouse, the UK merchant bank, to Credit Commercial de France (CCF), holder of the other half stake (Richard Miles writes).

Control of Charterhouse will pass to CCF in the first quarter of 1998. No price was disclosed, but sources said that between £200 million and £250 million would be paid for the holding.

A spokesman for BHF-Bank said the disposal stemmed from a strategic review initiated by Ernst Kruse after his appointment as chief executive officer in March.

The sale, plus the earlier disposal of a large stake in Zivnostenska, a Czech bank, would leave BHF free to concentrate on its investment banking operations in Frankfurt, said the spokesman.

CCF emphasised that it would be "business as usual" at Charterhouse, and said it had no plans to put the company up for sale.

Charterhouse, led by Michael Hepher, reported a pre-tax profit of £40.4 million in 1996 and has assets of £1.9 billion.

Wall's faces scrutiny from MMC

WALL'S, the ice-cream company, is to face a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation after a complaint from Mars, its rival, over supply deals (Christine Buckley writes).

The Office of Fair Trading referred Unilever, the parent company of Birds Eye Wall's, to the MMC after concern about how it distributes ice-cream through concessionaires, who supply Wall's ice cream to the shops while other wholesalers get the confectionary on what the OFT considers "less favourable terms".

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "It is consumers who lose out if the Wall's distribution policy restricts the choice of ice-creams in a shop, or makes it difficult for other manufacturers to enter or expand in the market."

Birds Eye Wall's disagreed that the concessionaire scheme restricted consumer choice. Tony Pearce, sales director, said: "A dedicated distribution system is essential to ensure our consumers receive the widest choice of ice-cream of the highest possible quality."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TI acquires Sealol in swap and cash deal

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, has agreed a swap deal with EG&G, of the US, that will see EG&G's Sealol Industrial subsidiary become part of TI in return for TI's John Crane Belfab unit and $55 million. The deal values Sealol, a manufacturer of high temperature mechanical seals for the refining and petroleum industry, at $100 million. Sealol, based in Rhode Island, earned operating profits of $10.3 million in 1996 on sales of $88.8 million. Belfab, acquired by TI in 1991 for $14.3 million, supplies the semiconductor industry and the deal values it now at $45 million.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of TI, said: "While we were very pleased with the performance of Belfab, it has a highly specialised product line serving the semi-conductor industry which is not coherent with John Crane's global strategy in mechanical seals." EG&G has annual sales of more than $1.4 billion and more than 14,000 employees worldwide. TI shares rose 15½p to 455p yesterday.

Unit trust sales dip

SALES of unit trusts fell to £413 million in November from £510 million the previous month, according to figures from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif). However, last month's sales figure is still 25 per cent higher than for the same period last year. Sales of Peps, at £402 million, are slightly higher than the previous month's and 33 per cent higher than last year. Around a quarter of the £252 million attracted by companies selling funds directly to the public went to index-tracking funds.

Ivory & Sime setbacks

IVORY & SIME, the Edinburgh fund manager, underlined its need for last month's reverse takeover by Friends Provident to go ahead, with half-year results showing continuing falls in funds under management and fee income. Despite the setbacks Ivory & Sime squeezed a 5.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.97 million, pushing earnings per share up 8.2 per cent to 8.29p. An unchanged interim dividend of 2.85p will be paid on January 9.

Partners back merger

KPMG and Ernst & Young moved a step closer to cementing their global merger yesterday, when partners in KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, the American practice, voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposals. Partners in Ernst & Young in the US gave their approval last week. Partners in member firms internationally are due to vote early next year. Price Waterhouse is pursuing its own merger plans with Coopers & Lybrand. Approval for both deals rests with regulators.

Finelist purchase

FINELIST GROUP, the auto parts specialist, is paying up to £9 million for XL Component Distribution, a steering, braking and ignition products company. XL will operate as a stand-alone business within Finelist's packaging and manufacturing division, complementing the existing activities of First Line and Autogem, the company said. Mark Marwood, the current owner and managing director of XL, will remain as managing director.

Oil prices 'will rise'

THE Saudi Government yesterday said it expects oil prices to rise next year, helped by robust growth in world demand and a commitment by fellow members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to observe new output quotas agreed last month. Current economic slowdown in Asia would not adversely affect regional oil demand, it added. Last month, Opec ministers agreed to lift the production ceiling to 27.5 million barrels per day from the start of 1998.

US insurers merge

IN a $2.2 billion share deal, American International Group (AIG), the US insurance company, has agreed to acquire American Bankers Insurance Group. AIG is to pay the equivalent of $47 a share to acquire American Bankers, a provider of specialised insurance services, such as life insurance related to loans. AIG underwrites commercial and industrial insurance. Its member companies provide services in about 130 countries and jurisdictions.

Freepages at the double

FREEPAGES GROUP, the interactive consumer information service provider which competes against BT's Talking Pages, more than doubled its revenues to £15.4 million in the year to September. During the same period pre-tax losses rose from £10.07 million to £14.97 million. Freepages said yesterday that it expects to gain a full Stock Exchange listing in 1998. Net loss per share after exceptionals was 3.4p for the year and there is no dividend.

Arcadian shares rise

SHARES in Arcadian International rose almost 5 per cent after the hotel group admitted that it was "at an advanced stage of discussions with a potential offeror". Last week *The Times* reported that Patriot American Hospitality, a US real estate investment trust, was close to finalising a takeover. The group has refused to name the suitor, but is expected to make an announcement next month. Its shares gained 2½p to 60p yesterday. In August they stood at 38½p.

Anglian Water

Anglian Water Plc
wishes everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends
that, once again this year, we are not sending Christmas cards.
Instead, we're making donations to
several local children's charities and hospices.

Buyout market tops record £7bn

By Jon Ashworth

THE UK management buyout market broke all records in 1997, with more than £7 billion of deals, according to the latest MBO survey by KPMG Corporate Finance.

The number of larger MBOs and management buy-ins reached a peak of 130 this year, compared with 114 in 1996. The final quarter of 1997 saw 25 deals worth £2 billion, led by Unipoly (£620 million), Gala Bingo Halls (£300 million) and Crystal International Travel Group (£150 million). MBOs were valued at £55 million on average.

The value of larger (£10 million-plus) MBOs and MBIs peaked at £7.14 billion in 1997, up 20 per cent on 1996. KPMG expects the value to rise further in 1998.

Mike Stevens, head of MBO Services at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "Never before has so much money been chasing buyout deals. The success of the MBO market is generating its own momentum, sucking in international investors looking for higher-yielding homes for their money than they can find in the major stock markets."

KPMG said the prices being paid were not unreasonable. Faced with increasing nervousness in the financial markets, MBO investments in 1998 are likely to settle on quality, resulting in fewer but larger "mega-deals".

Unipoly was the largest MBO, followed by General Healthcare Group (£594 million) and Welcome Break (£476 million). Other big deals involved CE Heath, Marchpole Group and Birmingham International Airport. Venture capital houses are thought to have more than £50 billion available for acquisitions in the UK and mainland Europe.

Former funeral director accused of misrepresentation

Hodgson faces Prontac writ

By Jason Nissé

HOWARD HODGSON, who was ousted as chief executive of Ronson, the lighter-maker, this year, is facing a legal claim worth up to £500,000 for misrepresentation over his role in a failed franchise business prior to joining Ronson.

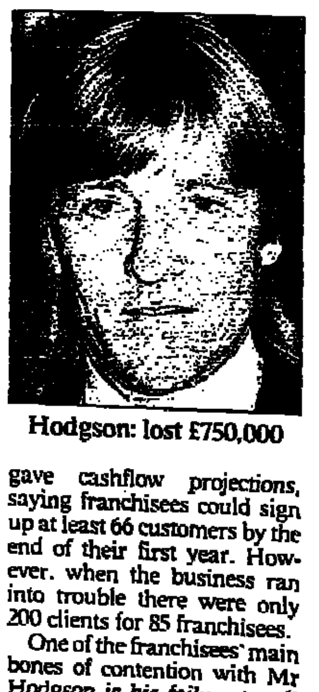
Mr Hodgson, a former funeral director who courts a high profile, is named in a writ to be issued by 37 former franchisees of a company called Prontac, of which he was chairman. Four other directors of Prontac — David Meakin, Stephen Fox, Thomas Madeley and Graham Hodson — are also named in the action.

Prontac collapsed in March 1993 with debts of more than £750,000. Many franchisees lost more than £10,000 each by investing in the Prontac system, an accounting service devised for small businesses. However, there were fundamental problems with the system that made it almost impossible to use or sell.

The legal action alleges misrepresentation by Mr Hodgson and the other directors over the financial strength of Prontac and the prospects for the franchises. A statement of claim will be filed in the next few days and the franchisees' solicitor, Amanda Webster of Brabner Holden Banks Wilson in Preston, said the total claim would reach £500,000.

"We have investigated this misrepresentation claim thoroughly, using a leading firm of forensic accountants, and we are confident of our grounds," said Ms Webster.

Mr Hodgson was chairman of Prontac and a leading investor. He appeared on the advertising for the product, saying how his funeral business had grown into a £90 million company from an initial outlay of £14,000. The literature gave cashflow projections, saying franchisees could sign up at least 66 customers by the end of their first year. However, when the business ran into trouble there were only 200 clients for 85 franchisees.



Hodgson: lost £750,000

One of the franchisees' main bones of contention with Mr Hodgson is his failure to tell them of his resignation from the Prontac board in August 1992. Although his name was removed from the company literature, he addressed a franchisees' meeting in Birmingham in November 1992 at which no mention was made of his resignation.

Mr Hodgson told *The Times* that he was the main loser from the Prontac fiasco, having invested £750,000 of his own money and receiving nothing back. "The Department of Trade and Industry looked at Prontac and gave me a clean bill of health and the Inland Revenue accepted I had lost £750,000," he said. "This is a try on."

Mr Hodgson is currently suing Ronson for compensation for loss of office after his departure from the group earlier this year. Shareholders lost patience with Mr Hodgson after it issued a series of profits warnings only months after raising money from the market in a rights issues.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Van Miert takes pole position

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Bernie Ecclestone has had an eventful 1997. The boss of Formula 1 gave the Labour Party £1 million — only to have it returned in a cheque which he apparently hasn't cashed. He saw some of the leading players in his sport accused of manslaughter over the death of the former world champion, Ayrton Senna — only for them to be exonerated. And he attempted to float the company that runs the sport with a £1.5 billion price tag — only for the float to be postponed indefinitely. Now he will start 1998 locking horns with Karel van Miert, the dreaded European Union competition commissioner. In a battle between the diminutive former motorcycle mechanic from Suffolk and the left wing Flemish farmer's son, there can only be one winner. This time, you wouldn't put your money on Bernie.

Van Miert yesterday said the EC had decided the sport was breaching competition law — something that many had suspected, not least Van Miert. The problem is something that goes to the core both of how the sport is run and how Ecclestone created a business with paid him £54 million last year. Van Miert thinks there is too cosy a relationship between Ecclestone's Formula One Holdings — the company he wants to float — and the Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA), which runs the sport. Specifically he is unhappy about Ecclestone's role within the constitution of the FIA — which Van Miert points out is run by Ecclestone's former legal adviser, Max Mosley. Meanwhile the FIA has given Ecclestone a contract to exploit all the media rights to Formula 1 until the year 2010 as part of a deal in which the duo co-operate to promote the sport as the premier motor racing championship in the world and the FIA maintains a strict rulebook to keep the racing teams in line. Van Miert has given Ecclestone and Mosley three weeks to respond or else he will take action against them.

Once Van Miert starts looking at the deals surrounding sport, he might never stop. Until BSkyB upped the ante on the price of live coverage of football in the UK, the amount most European broadcasters paid for filling up their schedules with sport was pitiful. In some cases they still are. And all around Europe there are little pockets of cosy practice which Van Miert might root out.

The reason why Van Miert is concentrating on Formula 1 is because Ecclestone in effect invited him in. By deciding to *crystallise the value of his business, he is in danger of destroying that value in the process.* If this glorified middleman's company is worth £1.5 billion, it is because of ineffiencies in the market place. These will be smoothed out by a combination of Van Miert, the broadcasters and the Formula 1 teams. Ecclestone's company will never float in its current form. Whether it survives in anything approximating to its current form must now also be in doubt.

Tricky sums on the high street

Someone is miscalculating the strength of consumer demand: retailers, policymakers or shoppers themselves. Perhaps it is Britain's store chains. In areas such as clothing and electronics, they overstocked and began to panic about a poor Christmas. After a reportedly *good last weekend, one can only* say with certainty that 1997 Christmas trade will either be relatively weak or sweatily late.

No wonder that many more big high street names than usual have blinked and started pre-Christmas sales. Autumn trading was peculiar but generally dull before December.

The latest revised national income figures show that consumer spending rose by only 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, less than half the rate in the second quarter of 1997. That includes September, a month clearly affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. That event, however, may also have disguised a weakening trend also glimpsed in November.

Many retailers therefore had higher stocks than usual coming into Christmas. Douglas McWilliams, the business economist, reckons that discounts after Christmas may be unusually deep. January 1998 may have to *see the sale of the century to clear* the backlog of unwanted stock, at least in some areas of expensive discretionary spending. If that proves true, consumers will have calculated smartly. Unless they succumb to a late surge today and on Christmas Eve, shoppers will have outstared shopkeepers.

Come the New Year, the greatest danger of miscalculation will be at the monthly meetings of the Bank of England's rate-fixing monetary policy committee. They will need to reassess the trends they had assumed when they pushed through five rate rises fast.

They should also reassess the potential inflationary impact of spending, even if it were buoyant. The IMF's assault on Asia tigers is already having an impact on luxury markets, for instance for diamonds. This will bring increasing downward pressure on prices of some more modest goods. And the cause of Asian malaise was overproduc*tion, to be cured by devaluation.* Korea *et al* will be selling at sharp prices, diluting any inflationary pressure in Western countries from domestic consumers. Instead of waiting until February to test fourth quarter spending before deciding on a further rise, the committee might usefully discuss straight way whether it has already put rates up too high for consumers.

Fortunes favour the brave Ruperts

There is something curious about Vendôme being taken private. This is a company which exists because of the high price of its goods. It creates its own exclusivity through the apparent rarity and *cachet* of its products — selling under brand names such as Piaget, Montblanc, Dunhill and Chloé. And a great deal of this has to do with their expense. Why else would one purchase a beautifully crafted wallet for £150 when something just as serviceable and as hard wearing could be obtained for a tenth of the price? So it is ironic that the fabulously wealthy Rupert family from South Africa considers *that the market does not value* Vendôme highly enough — the *share price having virtually* halved before the Ruperts decided to buy out the 30 per cent they do not own.

The Ruperts think the market has taken an overly short-term view of Vendôme's exposure to the financial crisis in Japan. They point out that building luxury goods brands can take years of investment and a short-term problem should not affect the long-term prospects too greatly. The way the market has treated profits warnings from Donna Karan and Gucci support their view. But it is particularly difficult for the average investor to understand how the luxury goods market operates. And if the Ruperts think that the Far East crisis is a short-term blip, then good luck to them. If they are buying Vendôme at a bargain price then it is a testimony to their bravery.

All or nothing euro

COMPARED with British political fudge — now most sugary on the euro — Romano Prodi says it refreshingly how it is. In Spain yesterday, Italy's Prime Minister nuked the official line, that joiners, including Latins, would hardly notice the difference. "I am convinced", he said "that once we have the single currency, either the entire system will collapse or else we will achieve convergence". Sounds right. It's just a question of *the odds.*

Chief to net £52m from buyout

By George Sivell

BETTERWARE, the door-to-door household goods supplier, yielded to a £117 million bid from its managing director and finance director yesterday. The deal values the holding of Andrew Cohen, chairman, and his family at £52 million.

Mr Cohen is to reinvest between £10 million and £12 million in Fenchurch Place, the NatWest Equity Partners (NWEP) vehicle that has mounted the bid. This will give Mr Cohen between 20 and 24 per cent of the new vehicle. He paid £253,000 for Betterware when he bought the business from receivers in 1983.

The bid emerged from informal talks between Mr Cohen and NWEP, after which NWEP approached Peter Hartley, Betterware's managing director, and Paul Turner, finance director. They helped to mount the bid, which was yesterday recommended by the group's independent directors and Rothschild, their advisers.

Mr Cohen said: "For some time now my family and I have been looking to reduce our significant investment in Betterware so as to diversify our investment portfolio and pursue other interests."

Mr Cohen is keen to step up the property interests he has developed in the past three or four years.

The bid values each share at 110p. Shareholders have the choice of cash, loan notes, or a so-called unit alternative that gives them an investment in Fenchurch Place on the same terms as Mr Cohen and NatWest. Betterware shares rose 10½p to close at 107½p in response.

On trading, Betterware said that its overseas joint venture operations with Avon were not expected to make a significant contribution to profits until the year 2000 at the earliest and that future development is best achieved as an unquoted company.

Mr Cohen will remain as a consultant for up to 12 days a year for a fee of up to £12,000 a year. The fee will be donated to the Betterware Charitable Foundation.

Bupa wins control of Care First with revised £273m bid

By Paul Durman

BUPA, the medical insurance group, is about to become Britain's biggest nursing home operator after winning control of Care First with an increased bid of £273 million.

Care First's board decided to recommend Bupa's 170p-a-share offer after it became clear it could not be bettered by Chai Patel, the company's former chief executive who has been trying to put together a deal financed by BC Partners.

Acceptances from directors including Keith Bradshaw, Care First's chairman, gave Bupa 24.8 per cent of the company, but it quickly lifted its stake above 50 per cent by buying shares in the market. Bupa's original offer of 150p a share valued Care First at £241 million.

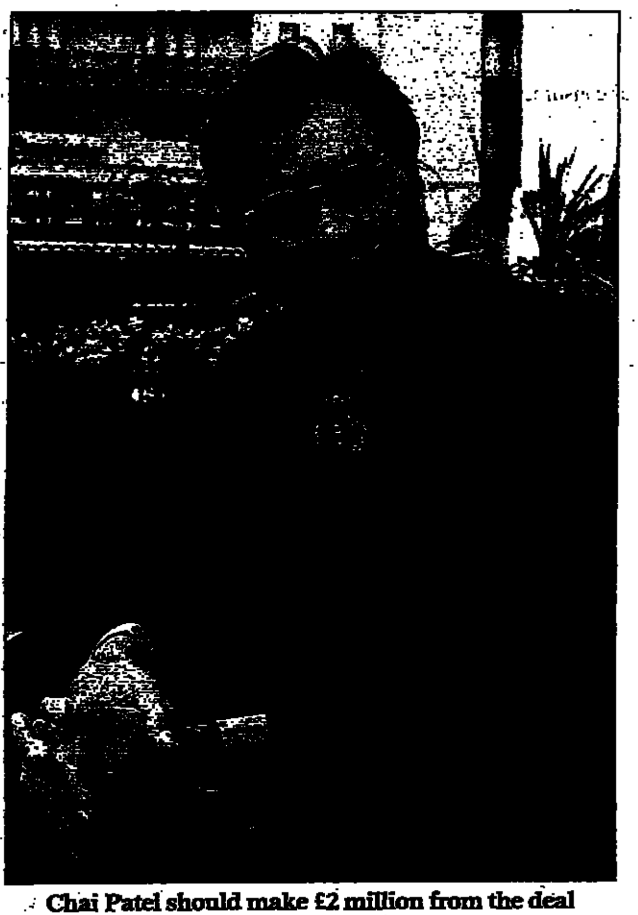
Mr Bradshaw, a founder of Takare, which merged with Court Cavendish to form Care First last year, will receive about £21 million for his stake. He will initially remain a non-executive director, and will become a consultant to Bupa.

Mr Bradshaw, 55, said he has still to decide what to do next. He is non-executive chairman of two private companies, a substantial motor dealership and BLT Industries, a manufacturer of amplifier and PA systems. Much criticised for Care First's recent poor performance, he said: "I look forward [to spending] a few years indulging my entrepreneurial instincts not in the public eye."

Peter Jacobs, chief executive of Bupa, said the addition of Care First would make the group the market leader, with 211 homes and 16,000 beds. He said he believed Dr Patel's team would have tabled their own offer yesterday if Bupa had not been willing to top it. Dr Patel and BC Partners indicated to Care First late last week that they were prepared to make an offer close to 170p.

Dr Patel, who still owns more than one million shares and 800,000 options in Care First, will make about £2 million from the Bupa deal.

Paul Saper, of Laing & Buisson, the healthcare analysts, said Bupa had paid a very full price, which it was able to justify because of the additional benefits it receives from its reputation and from cheaper financing. He suggested Dr Patel's former Court Cavendish management team at Care First were still waiting "with their bags packed", ready to rejoin Dr Patel in his next venture.



Chai Patel should make £2 million from the deal

City Diary, page 25

Changes at Merrydown

By Dominic Walsh

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, is to implement a board restructuring that was originally devised as a back-up in case a bid approach failed to produce a formal offer.

As a result, Merrydown veteran Richard Purdey has relinquished the role of executive chairman to become non-executive deputy chairman and Andy Nash, former managing director of Matthew Clark, a rival cidermaker, has been brought in as non-executive chairman.

There was *immediately* speculation that the talks with the unnamed suitor might have hit difficulties. However, Paul Millman, managing director, said the discussions continued and it had simply been decided that it would be in shareholders' best interests if Mr Nash was brought on board as soon as possible.

The takeover approach was revealed this month as Merrydown reported half-year losses of almost £1 million as a result *of a sharp drop in sales of* Two Dogs, the controversial alcopop. An exceptional charge of £630,000 came from the group's decision to hand distribution of Two Dogs to Scottish & Newcastle.

The identity of the mystery bidder is still not being revealed, although speculation has centred on Pernod Ricard, the French drinks group. A brewer or a luxury goods group are also thought to be possibilities.

Country Casuals takeover agreed

By Fraser Nelson

MARK and Christina Bunce booked themselves a £2.8 million Christmas present yesterday after agreeing to Austin Reed's £25.9 million bid for Country Casuals, the retail chain they bought out eight years ago. The Bunces, who still share an 11 per cent stake in the fashion chain despite having resigned from the board, will now sever their links with the company after the failure of their own takeover attempt six months ago.

Austin Reed's 135p-a-share offer comes at a 48 per cent premium to its market value before the latest merger talks were announced. After the company rejected advances from Mr Bunce and John Shannon, his former colleague, analysts held out little hope for a successful takeover.

John Ketterley, the merchant banker brought in as chairman of Country Casuals in October, said Austin Reed will be able to use its £24 million cash pile to finance badly needed refurbishment of its 67 high street stores. He said: "We don't have the kind of money needed, and the shares would never have gone far without it. Under Austin Reed, the employees have a better deal."

Mr Ketterley is standing down as chairman. He said: "I joined when the shares were 95p, now the offer is 135p. Its a case of last person out, switch off the lights."

Colin Evans, chairman of Austin Reed, played down the prospect of heavy investment. He said: "It's not so much a question of money, but of getting the company focused."

He intends to lift Country Casuals' sales of £325 per sq ft nearer to the £425 level currently achieved by Austin Reed. However, he said that a stock rejuvenation will not be complete until spring 1999. The shares jumped 11½p to 132½p yesterday.

Sketchley back from cleaners

SKETCHLEY, the dry cleaning to cable laying group, yesterday claimed that it has sorted out the accounting deficiencies that led to the £10 million profits black hole discovered last May (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company, which fired Richard Meyers as finance director after the deficiencies were discovered, said that it has spent £600,000 restoring financial discipline to its retail arm.

John Jackson, chief executive, said the firm is on course to return to the black this year after a strong performance by ARM, its new cable laying division, contributed to a pre-tax interim profit of £3.3 million (£2.64 million).

Earnigs per share were 3.2p (2.8p). There is no interim dividend.

Tempus, page 24

Press groups move in on two family firms

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

THE consolidation of the UK regional newspaper industry intensified yesterday as Johnston Press and Southern Newspapers, two of the expanding groups, agreed to buy two traditional family newspaper publishers.

Johnston Press, the fifth largest regional publisher, is paying around £52 million in cash and shares for Home Counties, which publishes 48 paid-for and free weekly newspapers. Its titles include the *Hampstead and Highgate Express.*

The Gibbs family controlled the papers for more than 100 years and currently holds a 32 per cent stake.

Tim Bowdler, chief executive of Johnston, yesterday emphasised the possibilities for revenue growth and cost savings from the elimination of corporate and administrative overheads.

Tim Bowdler: cost savings

Southern Newspapers agreed to pay £35 million for the privately owned Bailey Newspaper Group (BNG), which has been in the Bailey family since its foundation in 1878 and as a result will move from the tenth to eighth largest regional publisher. The group publishes 14 principal titles in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and South Wales.

Home Counties had pre-tax profits of £3.2 million on a £37.3 million turnover last year, while BNG had pre-tax profits of £1.2 million on a turnover of £13.8 million.

☐ United News and Media, publisher of *The Express*, is sifting through the bids for its remaining regional newspapers.

The newspaper industry believes that Trinity International is favourite for United's northern titles, which include the *Yorkshire Post*, and that Tony O'Reilly's Irish Independent group is favourite for the southern titles, mainly in London, Surrey and Essex.

Tempus, page 24

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XMAS-UK 04

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

US inflation report nips Christmas rally in bud

David Montgomery has sold much of his Mirror holding

JUST the faintest hint of *inflationary pressure* within the US economy was enough to take the gloss off an otherwise promising performance by the London market.

After a slow start, the FTSE 100 index drew encouragement from an opening markup on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average was sporting a rise of almost 90 points within the first hour of trading. But the leads on both sides of the Atlantic were pared back by a cautious report from the Philadelphia Federal Reserve showing inflation continuing to gather pace throughout 1998, while economic growth faltered.

At one stage the FTSE 100 index was nursing a fall of 15.7. It reduced the deficit to just 2.0 at 5,018.2. With traders now focusing on the seasonal festivities, turnover was low, only 642 million shares changing hands.

Traders now fear we may have seen the best of the pre-*Christmas rally and remain* cautious about the short term in the face of further losses overnight in Asia.

There was some good news for **Blue Circle Industries** on the day it lost its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has upgraded its recommendation on the stock from "market underperformer" to "trading buy". Goldman has cut its earnings forecast due to the group's involvement in Malaysia, but maintains that the shares are significantly undervalued. The price rose 21¼p to 315p.

RMC Group, up 19½p to 846½p, also comes out of the top 100, along with **TI Group**, *12p firmer at 451½p. TI* was boosted by an asset swap with EG&G, the US company.

Those gaining entry to the exclusive top 100 club included **British Energy**, up 7p at 427p, and **Mercury Asset Management**, 9p lighter at £16.86. MAM's reign will prove short-lived. The £3.1 billion bid from Merrill Lynch, the broker, went unconditional last night.

There was another jolt for shareholders of **Scotia Holdings**, with the price tumbling 52½p to 265p after the Medicines Control Agency rejected an appeal by the group to approve Tarabetic, its treatment for diabetic neuropathy. The shares were rocked earlier this month by the departure of David Horrobin, chief executive, and his wife, Sherri Clarkson, head of the drug discovery division.

Biocompatibles was another weak market, losing 19½p at 457½p after issuing a warning that second-half losses would exceed those achieved in the first six months. **Medeva** dipped 6p to 167p as Lehman Brothers downgraded its 1998 profits forecast, from £108.5 million to £100.8 million after a meeting with the company. It is still looking for £110 million for the current year. Lehman blames a drop-off in sales of its Ionamin obesity drug.

Mirror Group was steady at 195½p despite David Montgomery, chief executive, selling a large part of his holding in the newspaper publisher. He has exercised an option on 500,000 shares at 61p, which he sold along with a further 10,000 shares at around the 195p level. He still has options in a further 432,895 shares at prices up to 229p.

Newcomer **Savoy Asset Management** marked time at 114½p after weighing in with its first trading news since going public in October. The group said the second half should match the performance of the first six months.

Eurotunnel continued to respond to the news that its concession had been extended *by an extra 34 years* with a rise of 7p at 64p. The concession, by both the British and French Governments, means it can operate the cross Channel link until the year 2086.

Confirmation of the terms from Richemont, the Swiss *holding* company, for the oustanding 30 per cent of **Vendôme Luxury Group** lifted the latter 16p to 477½p. It is paying 495p a share, valuing the company at £3.45 billion.

As expected, **Austin Reed** has emerged as the bidder for **Country Casuals**, up 11½p at 132½p. Reed, unchanged at 188½p, is offering 135p for the troubled women's fashion retailer, valuing the entire business at almost £26 million.

The increased bid terms *from Bupa lifted* **Care First** 17½p to 169½p. Bupa is now offering an agreed 170p a share, putting a price tag on the nursing homes group of £273 million.

Betterware reacted to terms of the proposed £117 million management buyout with a rise of with a rise of 10½p at 107½p.

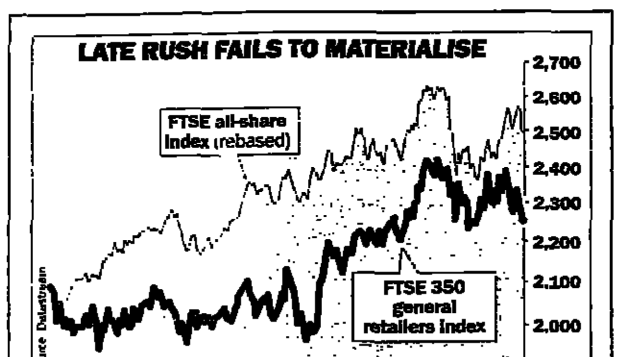
Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has turned bearish of **Powerscreen**, leaving the shares 25½p down at 614½p.

☐ ***GILT-EDGED:*** *Bond* prices in London gave up ground late in the day, prompted by opening falls among US Treasury bonds in the face of the report from the Philadelphia Federal Reserve. Trading remained thin.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished five ticks lower at £121½ in thin trading.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 closed £⅛ off at £121⅝, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 *was £1/32 easier at £101 31/32.*

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street was firm as technology shares continued to rebound after a sell-off based on Asia fears in recent sessions. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.70 ahead at 7,768.99.



THE scrummage of shoppers seen over the weekend in London's West End and at various city centres dotted around the country belies the fact that the retailers tills' have been drowned out by carol singers. The shops may have been crowded, but there are still plenty of goods left on the shelves. Some estimates say it could be as much as *£3 billion, which means the* new year sales will be brought forward.

Many retailers had been hoping for a strong run-up to the crucial festive season, fuelled by a stream of building society windfalls. Disappointment was hard to conceal yesterday as shares in some of the leading players fell by the wayside. **Kingfisher** dropped 18p to 825p, Great Universal Stores 14p to 722p, Boots 15p to 866p, Sears 1½p to 49½p, JJB Sports 14½p to 644p, Argos 7p to 545½p, Marks & Spencer 7p to 576p, and *French Connection 7½p at* 375p.

The sales may be good news for the consumer, but they will only add further pressure to the retailers margins.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7768.99 (+12.70)
S&P Composite 948.97 (+2.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 14799.40 (-515.49)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 10172.47 (-233.34)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 884.82 (+5.33)

Sydney:
AO 2503.4 (-24.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4043.02 (-41.73)

Singapore:
Straits 1541.65 (-30.96)

Brussels:
General 14142.63 (-244.14)

Paris:
CAC-40 2869.73 (+46.83)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1233.00 (+7.70)

London:
FT 30 3225.5 (-3.2)
FTSE 100 5018.2 (-2.0)
FTSE 250 4701.8 (-3.3)
FTSE 350 2415.5 (-1.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2636.46 (-3.22)
FTSE All-Share 2360.10 (-1.18)
FTSE Non Financials 2370.90 (-0.85)
FTSE Fixed Interest 134.44 (+0.34)
FTSE Govt Secs 101.70 (-0.11)
Bargains 43993
SEAQ Volume 642.0m
US$ 1.6639 (-0.0061)
German Mark 2.9605 (+0.0087)
Exchange Index 104.7 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.5013
£:SDR 1.2318
RPI 159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 158.0 Nov (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Autologic	267½	...
BCO Technologies	166½	...
Boustead	19½	...
Bovis Homes	193½	...
Comland Comm	59	+ 5
Energis (290)	260½	- 2
Flmg Geared Uts	179	...
General Inds	35	...
Gooch & Housego	133½	...
Manchester & Lon	270	...
Marchpole	112½	- 2½
Market Link Publ	55	...
Northern Recrtmnt	139	+ ½
Property Asset	7	...
Range Cooker Cmpny	6½	- ¼
Rapid Technology	94½	...
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...
SCS Upholstery	111½	...
Saatchi & Saatchi	112	- 1
Second Scot Zr Dv	99¼	...
Second Scottish	103	...
Symer	234	...
Tetra	176½	+ 1
Vanguard Med Wts	43½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bdycte Intl n/p (500)	342½	...
FI Group n/p (640)	260	+ 10
Taylor Nlsn n/p (60)	20½	+ ¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Danka Bs Sys 265p (+26p)
Legal & Gen 515p (+35p)
Blue Circle 315p (+21¼p)
Carrs Milling 258p (+11½p)
Vendome 477½p (+16p)
Bank Scotland 577p (+18p)
TI 451½p (+12p)
Rio Tinto 718p (+18p)
Seton Health 505p (+11½p)
Smithkline 618p (+11p)

FALLS:
Scotia 265p (-52½p)
Chiroscience 216p (-18p)
Waste Mgt Intl 182½p (-11p)
Cantab Pharms 640p (-25p)
GEC 384p (-11p)
AB Food 523p (-14½p)
Blacks Leis 457½p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Press ball hots up

LOCAL and regional newspapers were once the Cinderellas of the publishing sector, beset by falling circulations. However, with two acquisitions announced yesterday, one might be tempted to think that they *had become* Christmas fashion accessories.

In fact, yesterday's purchases by Johnston Press and Southern Newspapers of Home Counties Newspapers and the Bailey Newspaper Group, respectively, form part of an industry consolidation trend as family-owned groups become absorbed by *the bigger* battalions. Circulations and advertising rates are on the rise as the economy and the job market improve.

That makes it a smart time for Home Counties and Bailey to sell out. Had they continued, they would have faced increased *competition and pressure to invest* in their titles to keep them looking up to date. For larger groups, takeovers yield economies of scale — in purchasing, in sharing editorial content and in lower overheads.

How good are yesterday's deals for Johnston and Southern Newspapers and, *in* particular, what should Home Counties shareholders do about the 70 per cent share alternative? Southern should be able to raise BNG's profit from the current £1.8 million, and Fred Johnston has demonstrated that the business of weekly newspapers has some way to go yet. The shares look potentially more interesting than the cash. Meanwhile the new year should bring United's disposal of its regional titles. More opportunity for industry consolidation, but this market is hot and investors should be prepared to sell quickly on any sign of a weakening economy.

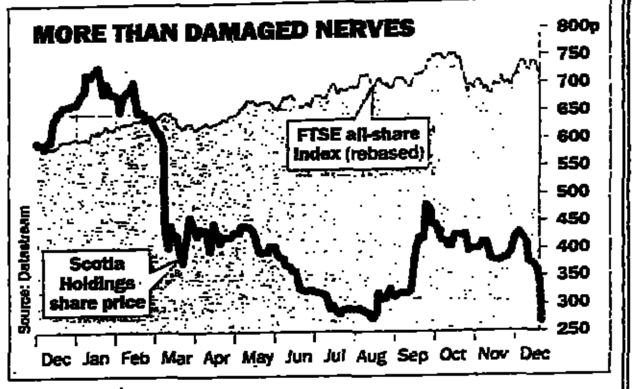
Scotia

IT IS sadly fitting that David Horrobin's departure as Scotia's chief executive should coincide with the company's ultimate failure to persuade the UK authorities of the virtues of Tarabetic. Based on evening primrose oil, the diabetes drug was a victim of unconvincing results based *on small and flawed clinical* trials. In a difficult area like diabetic neuropathy, the enthusiasm of Dr Horrobin and his supporters was, once again, not enough.

The late announcement on Friday pushed Scotia's shares down another 17 per cent to 265p yesterday. Early this year, they hit 735p. Tarabetic's problems launched this year's rout in the biotech sector. Yet that apart, Scotia has not had a bad year. Arguably, it secured the sector's best licensing deal with Foscan, its impressive light-activated cancer drug. It is about to benefit from the launch of a yoghurt with apparently huge promise as a dieting aid. And it has attracted heavyweight management in Rob Dow, the senior Roche executive who is replacing Dr Horrobin.

Investors face a nervous few months while Dr Dow carries out an examination of Scotia's other clinical trial programmes. But he has satisfied himself with Foscan and *the yoghurt launch* is proceeding as planned.

Scotia is an unusual and high risk company. But for believers in biotech, it is, at 265p, worth tucking away as part of a broader portfolio.



Diamonds

IMPLODING Far Eastern currencies have done huge damage to the diamond market. If demand for sparkling rocks fails to recover in that part of the world, it will test the resolve of one of the world's greatest cartels. De Beers yesterday reported that sales were 4 per cent lower in 1997, but the important figure was the 40 per cent decline in sales from the first half to the second half, an indication of the scale of De Beers's intervention to prevent a price collapse.

De Beers's Central Selling Organisation is a price-fixing body that attempts to match supply and demand and prevent rough diamond prices from fluctuating wildly. But diamonds are a dollar *commodity and the sudden* fall in the yen and other Asian currencies has hurt the trade. The Japanese account for 30 per cent of retail diamond consumption, while Asia accounts for almost half; economic hardship and high prices are hurting consumption.

The problem is that the CSO's only response seems to be to preserve the dollar price by reducing the flow of uncut diamonds. This is bad for jewellers and the retail trade who, logically, want to stimulate demand with lower prices. Meanwhile, the organisation faces a threat from BHP and Rio Tinto, which by the end of the decade will be producing large quantities of diamonds from Canada and may or may not join the CSO. There is little economic logic in preserving this cartel, which mainly benefits expensive producers. If diamonds are to find more friends, the prices need to fall.

Sketchley

HOW can a company that makes £160 million in sales lose £10 million of profit through "accounting irregularities"?

Since the black hole was discovered in Sketchley's books this summer, this question has troubled investors and kept the share price in decline. Now, seven months later, Sketchley would appear to be recovering. Its cable laying division — a strange stablemate for SuperSnaps — is bringing in the cash while the dry cleaning still struggles. This year the company is on course to make £7.3 million.

But this is proving no comfort to the City. At 42½p — the shares' lowest price for 20 years — no one seems tempted even though they sit on a ratio of 6.4 times this year's earnings and 4.5 times next year. On fundamentals, the shares do look cheap and are worth a punt on takeover speculation alone. But its long-term performance will be dictated by City confidence, and in the absence of a bid, the company has much more to prove before its shares are taken out of the sin bin.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	1023 BID	Mar	1160-1158
Mar	1049-1046	May	1177 SLR
May	1072-1070	Jul	unq
Jul	1093 SLR	Sep	1220 BID
Sep	1111 SLR		
Dec	1135-1130		Volume: 9482

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1648 SLR	Sep	unq
Mar	1632-1630	Nov	—
May	1621 BID	Jan	—
Jul	1611 BID		Volume: 7091

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	309.5-08.0
Spot: 302.3		Dec	312.5-09.0
Mar	308.2-07.5	Mar	315.0-08.0
May	312.5-11.5	May	314.5-11.0
Aug	314.5-13.5		Volume: 836

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	67.[illegible]	92.15	90.79
(+/-)	-7.91	-0.71	-1.42
Eng/Wales	67.99	93.90	90.45
(+/-)	+7.91	+0.59	-1.34
(%)	-12.0	-46.0	-57.0
Scotland	unq	93.65	92.43
(+/-)		-4.54	-4.40
(%)		-4.0	-2.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.10	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.40	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.50	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.35	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.55	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	174 (-1)	177 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	158 (-4)	160 (-4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	79 (n/c)	81 (-1)
Naphtha	169 (-1)	171 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	158.50-56.75	Apr	160.25-60.75
Feb	159.50-59.75	May	160.25-60.75
Mar	160.00-60.25		Vol: 13946

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	17.35-17.37	May	17.60-17.61
Mar	17.44-17.47	Jun	17.66-17.72
Apr	17.52-17.54		Vol: 11635

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Jan	81.35
Mar	83.90
May	85.90
Jul	87.90
Sep	80.65
Volume: 191	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Jan	74.30
Mar	77.20
May	78.25
Sep	77.75
Nov	79.75
Volume: 0	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	92.0
Apr	112.5	112.0
may	unq	122.0
		Volume: 5

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jan 45.50-46.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 98	unq	—	1165
Feb 98	unq	—	1175
Mar 98	unq	—	1200
Apr 98	1260	1255	1255
Vol: 13 lots		Open interest: 1490	

Index 1244 -9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1750.0-1705.5	1780.0-1781.0	1322300
Lead ($/tonne)	532.00-532.50	542.00-543.00	261950
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1079.0-1780.0	1103.5-1104.0	29783
Tin ($/tonne)	5340.0-5350.0	5310.0-5320.0	11895
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1517.0-1518.0	1542.0-1543.0	1917000
Nickel ($/tonne)	5890.0-5895.0	5985.0-5990.0	83526

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	160	20½	25	29	1	4	6
(*173)	180	7½	13½	18	3	11½	13½
Abbey Nat	1000	62	84½	125	27½	64½	79
(*1026½)	1050	36	72	100½	52	89½	103½
[illegible]	600	31	55	72	25	41½	52½
(*604)	650	11½	34½	49½	54½	70½	81
Alld Dom	500	28½	45	58½	9½	22½	29½
(*516)	550	7	22½	38½	37½	49½	56
BAA	450	25½	53½	63	6	15½	25
(*426½)	500	12	32	47½	23	34½	43
BAT Ind	500	48	66	76	7	26½	34
(*533)	550	19	40½	51	27½	52	59
Barclays	1600	71½	132½	184	67½	115	139
(*1603)	1700	31	91	139½	127½	173½	195½
Bass	900	57	68½	85	21	47½	54½
(*912)	950	15	44½	60	43½	73½	79½
Boots	850	41	76	90½	15	33	51
(*857)	900	19	51½	65½	46	63½	79½
Br Airways	550	25½	50½	52½	17½	23	40
(*565½)	600	7	23	33	42½	59½	66½
BP	750	60½	67	104	10½	29	40
(*798½)	800	26½	60	73½	27½	50	62
Br Steel	130	6½	13	15½	5½	9	12
(*135)	140	3	9	11½	11½	15	13½
C&W	500	38½	58	69½	10	24	29½
(*529)	550	12½	34½	45½	33	48½	55
CU	850	50½	82	94	36	73½	75½
(*857½)	900	29	50	72	64½	102½	103½
Glaxo	1400	68½	117	158½	45	89	108½
(*1419½)	1450	45	95	133½	67½	112½	133½
HSBC	1500	91½	165½	219½	90	154½	179
(*1514)	1600	50	125	175½	132	212	224½
Halifax	750	25	49	67½	15	40	44½
(*755)	800	6½	27	45½	46	69½	73
ICI	900	44½	72½	96½	22½	52	66½
(*920½)	950	20½	49½	72½	48	78½	92½
Land Sec	950	44½	74	82	21	35	47½
(*969)	1000	24	48	55½	47½	60	72½
M&S	550	38½	58½	68	8½	20½	29
(*575½)	600	14	32½	43	31½	42	54
Nat Pwr	550	28½	59	69½	12	26½	35½
(*573½)	600	11½	35½	45½	36½	50	62
Nat West	1000	58	91	114	29	80½	86
(*1011½)	1050	36	68½	90	66½	108	115
Reuters	600	45	53	80½	6½	29	32
(*633½)	650	17½	45	55	27½	52½	60
RylSun	550	45	67	76½	3½	29½	37
(*567)	600	19	41	51	31	54	61½
Safeway	300	31½	42½	47	4	10	12½
(*327½)	350	12	25	30	14	22½	29½
Sainsbury	462	34	50	58	5½	15	23
(*485½)	500	11½	27½	38½	22½	32	42
Shell	417	19½	—	—	12½	—	—
(*426)	433	12	—	—	20	—	—
Smth Bch	600	38½	64	83	14½	34½	47
(*623½)	635	35	55	—	25	46½	—
Std Chtd	650	37	58	56	35	55	68½
(*655½)	700	18½	34½	64½	61½	83	98½
Thames W	800	35½	61½	80½	18	35	47
(*873)	900	11½	38	55½	46	60½	73
Vodafone	420	33	50½	63½	13½	26½	35½
(*438)	460	14	31½	44	35½	47½	54½
Woolwich	300	21½	29	35½	4	10½	14
(*316½)	330	6	13½	21	18½	25½	29½
Zeneca	2000	108½	173	234	43½	99	125½
(*2062½)	2100	55	125½	183	90½	147	174
Prudentl	700	56	79	93½	29	48½	58½
(*721)	750	32½	56	69	55½	74½	84
Rio Tinto	700	58	71½	86½	22½	44½	55
(*721½)	750	32	48	63½	49½	72½	82½
Redland	330	15½	16½	16	½	3½	½
(*343½)	360	½	0½	½	16½	18½	16½
R-Royce	220	16½	24	30	5	14½	15½
(*228)	240	6	14½	21	19½	24½	25
Tesco	460	37	50½	61	10	20½	27½
(*484)	500	18½	31½	45½	28	40	46½
Utd Bisc	200	16½	20	24	5	11	13
(*210½)	220	6	10	14½	13½	21½	23

Series		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BTR	180	13	20	25	10½	18½	20
(*182)	200	5½	12½	17½	22	30½	32
Blue Circ	300	28½	36	41	8	16	21
(*316½)	330	13½	21	26½	22½	31½	36½
Br Aero	1600	143	190½	232½	34	70	92
(*1687½)	1700	85½	137	182	73½	116	137½
Br Telcm	465	21	—	—	21	—	—
(*458)	515	5½	—	—	56	—	—
Cadbury	600	38½	54½	64	14½	31½	35½
(*616½)	650	15	31½	40½	42½	59	62½
Energy Gr	650	33	51	60	7	12	15
(*676½)	700	11½	16½	34	29	35½	40
Gallaher	330	25	32½	38	12½	21	23½
(*341½)	360	10½	18	24½	28½	38	40
GEC	360	34	46	53½	7½	12½	19½
(*387½)	390	15½	29	37	17½	24	33½

Series		Calls Feb	May	—	Puts Feb	May	—
Diageo PLC	550	42	58½	—	12	26	—
(*569½)	600	13	34½	—	36½	52	—

Series		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Diageo PLC	550	29½	55½	64	17	28	30½
(*558½)	600	77	32½	40	45	55	57
Hanson	260	23½	32½	36½	6½	13½	15½
(*272½)	280	12½	22½	26½	15½	23	26
Imp Tob	390	19½	32	38	13	20	25½
(*393)	420	7½	21½	25	31½	36½	42½
Kingfshr	800	60	81½	97½	23	45	52
(*826½)	850	34½	56	72	46	70½	76½
Lasmo	260	17	29	31	9½	15	17
(*258½)	280	8½	19½	21½	19	26	27½
Ladbroke	260	21	31	37	7	14½	19½
(*271½)	280	11	21	27½	16½	24½	29
LucasVar	200	19½	27½	31½	4	8½	12
(*214)	220	8½	17	21	12	17½	21½
P&O	650	53	67	75	13	23½	35
(*684½)	700	24	39½	49½	34½	48	59½

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
BG PLC	261	28	33½	—	10	13½	—
(*274½)	283	17	24½	—	20	24½	—
BSkyB	420	47½	61½	72½	20	27½	33½
(*446)	460	26½	41½	53	39½	47½	53
Br Bio	100	19	26½	32	12½	17	18½
(*103)	110	15	22½	28½	17	21½	24
Centrica	90	9	12½	14½	7	9	10½
(*95½)	100	5	9	10½	13	15	15½
Dixons	600	40½	62½	74	35½	45	55½
(*603)	650	20½	41	53	61	72	94
EMI	450	42	59	65½	27½	36½	46
(*471½)	492	27½	—	—	45	—	—
Granada	900	43	71½	88	40	50	70
(*906½)	950	25½	48½	65	51½	73	87
GUS	700	57½	76½	93½	27½	36½	45
(*722)	750	34	51½	68	53	61½	69½
Lloyds TSB	700	73	91	107½	32	43	55
(*734½)	750	47½	66	83	59½	67½	79
Lonrho	90	9½	14	15	7	9½	11½
(*92)	100	5½	10	11	13½	15½	17½
Norwich	360	35	42	50½	11	15	22½
(*379½)	390	20½	26½	35	23	32½	37
Orange	240	24	33	39	9½	15	16½
(*251)	260	14	22	29½	19	25	25½
Railtrck	900	39	117	135	43	56½	71½
(*929½)	950	66	94½	118½	66	78½	95½
Scot Pwr	500	42½	61½	79	13½	29	38
(*518)	550	22½	38	48½	45	64½	64
Tarmac	100	13	15	17½	2½	4	4½
(*109)	110	7½	9½	12½	5½	9½	9
Tomkins	290	24½	32½	37½	8	12	15
(*295)	300	14	22	27	17	22	24½
Unilever	475	36½	46	—	17	27	—
(*487½)	500	25½	33	44	29	35	45

December 22 Total: 13506 Calls: 3390 Puts: 10115

FTSE INDEX (*5008½)

Strike	Calls Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Puts Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun
4850	259½	344	390	409½	—	80	152	197	202½	—
4900	216	312½	353½	383½	491½	90½	169½	206½	226½	283½
4950	184	261	329	357½	—	109	187½	225½	256	—
5000	153½	248	296	321½	431	129	207	245½	274	328½
5050	122	215	264	305½	—	152	225	265½	298	—
5100	99	183½	234	279½	370½	181	248	287½	324	369½
5150	73	157	211	261	—	211	274½	315½	352	—
5200	58	129	193½	243	319½	245	299	344	397	423½

December 22 Total: 812 Calls: 341 Puts: 471

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 189391	Dec 97	121-07	121-07	121-05	121-00	182
	Mar 98	121-25	121-27	121-15	121-16	24128
German Govt Bond (Bund) *Previous open interest 236883*	Mar 98	105.06	105.16	104.86	104.90	51216
	Jun 98				*104.37*	*0*
German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open interest 23623	Mar 98	104.43	104.65	104.40	104.40	2871
	Jun 98				103.82	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 116865	Mar 98	116.20	116.40	116.17	116.23	14852
	Jun 98				115.63	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.80	129.82	129.70	129.72	750
	Jun 98				129.170	
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 98	92.45	92.47	92.42	92.43	11606
	Jun 98	92.56	92.57	92.52	92.53	9209
Previous open interest 687801	Sep 98	92.73	92.73	92.66	92.68	5532
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1804672	Mar 98	96.26	96.27	96.22	96.23	47580
	Jun 98	96.13	96.18	96.09	96.11	38782
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 550680	Mar 98	94.80	94.81	94.73	94.73	13631
	Jun 98	95.41	95.43	95.36	95.38	6214
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 127907	Mar 98	98.31	98.33	98.27	98.29	4202
	Jun 98	98.18	98.19	98.14	98.14	1108
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 33480	Mar 98	95.57	95.57	95.54	95.56	747
	Jun 98	95.59	95.59	95.55	95.56	141
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 55474	Mar 98	5040.0	5105.0	5030.0	5055.0	4483
	N/A					

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7¼
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6⅞ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth 7 . Sell: 2 mth 6¾ ; 3 mth 6¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅜-7¼	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⁵⁄₁₆	7⅜-7¼	7⁷⁄₁₆-7⁵⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅝-7½	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⁹⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-7¹³⁄₁₆	7⅞-7¾
Interbank:	7⅝-7½	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⁹⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7¹⁵⁄₁₆-7¹³⁄₁₆	7⅞-7¾

Overnight: open 7⁵⁄₁₆ close 7¼ .

Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7¹¹⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	7⁹⁄₁₆-7⁷⁄₁₆	7⅝-7½	7¾-7⅝	7⅞-7¾	7⅞-7¾
Dollar CDs:	5.93	n/a	5.79	5.81	5.87
Building Society CDs:	7⅝-7½	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⁹⁄₁₆	7¹³⁄₁₆-7¹¹⁄₁₆	7⅞-7¾	7⅞-7¾

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅞	3⅞-3¾	3⅞-3¾	3¹⁵⁄₁₆-3¹³⁄₁₆	4-3
French Franc:	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	3¾-3⅝	3½-2¾
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-⅞	1⅛-1⅛	1⅝-1½	1¹¹⁄₁₆-1⁹⁄₁₆	1½-½
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Rothschild)

Bullion: Open $289.80-290.20 Close: $291.20-291.70 High: $291.20-291.70
Low: $289.80-290.20 AM: $290.45 PM: $290.45

Krugerrand: $n/a (£173.00-176.00)

Platinum: $353.00 (£212.15) Silver: $6.04 (£3.625) Palladium: $182.00 (£109.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 22	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3356-3.3445	3.3356-3.3391	1⅛-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	61.080-61.260	61.082-61.182	24-19pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.278-11.306	11.279-11.289	⅝-¼pr	1½-1pr
Dublin	1.1416-1.1493	1.1452-1.1474	12-6pr	46-40pr
Frankfurt	2.9600-2.9648	2.9603-2.9629	1-¾pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Lisbon	302.61-303.39	302.64-302.99	⅝-¼pr	2¼-1½pr
Madrid	250.57-251.24	250.68-250.88	61-51pr	178-159pr
Milan	2901.9-2913.2	2901.9-2906.1	44-27pr	124-102pr
Montreal	2.3834-2.3894	2.3841-2.3863	0.63-0.57pr	1.15-1.06pr
New York	1.6630-1.6644	1.6630-1.6635	0.226-0.217pr	0.715-0.685pr
Oslo	12.111-12.149	12.123-12.130	⅝-¼pr	1½-1pr
Paris	9.9073-9.9450	9.9073-9.9154	3⅛-3¼pr	6½-6¼pr
Stockholm	12.923-12.979	12.930-12.946	⅝-¼pr	1-¾pr
Tokyo	216.50-217.56	216.73-217.03	1⅝-1½pr	4-3½pr
Vienna	20.824-20.872	20.827-20.847	⅝-¼pr	2½-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3688-2.3952	2.3894-2.3925	1⅝-1½pr	3⅝-3½pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5318-1.5330
Austria	12.53-12.54
Belgium (Com)	36.77-36.81
Canada	1.4335-1.4340
Denmark	6.7869-6.7889
France	5.9620-5.9630
Germany	1.7814-1.7819
Hong Kong	7.7490-7.7500
Ireland	1.4516-1.4536
Italy	1746.75-1747.25
Japan	130.32-130.42
Malaysia	3.8200-3.8300
Netherlands	2.0070-2.0080
Norway	7.2945-7.2995
Portugal	182.15-182.25
Singapore	1.6745-1.6760
Spain	150.83-150.86
Sweden	7.7722-7.7798
Switzerland	1.4381-1.4391

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6634-1.6661
Australia dollar	2.5490-2.5525
Bahrain dinar	0.6205-0.6345
Brazil real*	1.8548-1.8594
China yuan	13.642-13.942
Cyprus pound	0.8590-0.8780
Finland markka	8.8900-9.0310
Greece drachma	461.75-472.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.8943-12.9037
India rupee	64.56-65.86
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5015-0.5125
Malaysia ringgit	6.3550-6.3754
New Zealand dollar	2.8717-2.8769
Pakistan rupee	71.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9950-6.1300
Singapore dollar	2.7857-2.7899
S Africa rand (com)	8.0190-8.1880
U A E dirham	6.0475-6.1835

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,500	Lloyds TSB	7,300
ASDA Gp	9,000	LucasVarity	4,900
Abbey Ntl	775	Marks Spr	4,800
Allnce & Leic	445	NatWst Bk	2,400
Allied Dom	467	Nat Grid	2,300
AB Foods	392	Nat Power	2,500
BAA	2,600	Next	1,000
BAT Inds	4,200	Norwich Un	1,400
BG	11,300	Nycmd Amer	191
BOC	1,400	Orange	429
BP	4,900	P & O	571
BSkyB	2,400	Pearson	1,600
BTR	9,400	PowerGen	1,800
BT	4,600	Prudential	2,100
Bk of Scot	1,400	RMC	707
Barclays	3,100	Railtrack	762
Bass	1,400	Rank Group	2,700
Billiton	2,200	Reckitt Col	835
Blue Circle	4,700	Reed Intl	1,800
Boots	2,100	Rentokil	2,200
BAe	525	Reuters	3,600
BA	3,300	Rio Tinto	1,900
British Land	1,800	Rolls Royce	3,000
Brit Steel	5,700	Royal & Sun	2,600
Cable Wire	1,600	Royal Bk Scr	3,500
Cadbury	2,200	Safeway	4,100
Carlton Cms	2,400	Sainsbury	2,100
Centrica	8,400	Schroders	84
Cm Union	443	Scot & New	891
Diageo	8,900	Scot Power	2,600
Dixons	1,000	Svrn Trent	644
EMI	850	Shell Trans	11,200
Energy Gp	323	Siebe	601
Enterpr Oil	616	SmKl Bch	3,800
GKN	457	Smiths Inds	312
GRE	932	Std Chartd	1,300
GUS	1,200	Sun Life	171
Gen Acc	902	TI Gp	3,300
Gen Elec	3,400	Tesco	3,500
Glaxo Well	3,400	Thames W	1,700
Granada	2,500	Tomkins	1,900
HSBC	2,800	Unilever	3,500
Halifax	4,000	Utd Utilities	1,100
Hays	250	Utd News	604
ICI	1,300	Vodafone	9,100
Kingfisher	1,200	Whitbread	920
LASMO	1,300	Williams	474
Ladbroke	782	Wolseley	542
Land Secs	578	Woolwich	2,100
Legal & Gn	1,600	Zeneca	721

WALL STREET

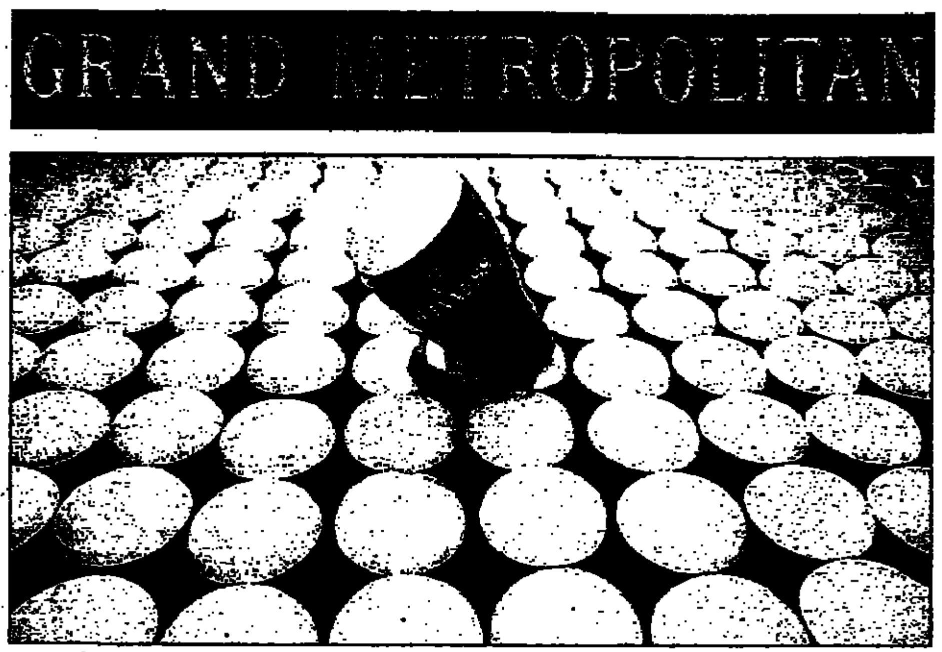
	Dec 22 midday	Dec 19 close
AMP Inc	40¼	40
AMR Corp	124⅝	124¼
AT & T	62¼	61⅞
Abbott Labs	65½	64¼
Advanced Micro	18⅛	18¼
Aetna Life	66½	67⅞
Ahmanson (HF)	66⅝	66⅝
Air Prod & Chem	77⅛	77
AirTouch Comm	38⅝	38⅝
Albertson's	46¼	47⅛
Alcan Alumnm	27⅛	27⅛
Allied Signal	39¼	39½
Alum Co of Am	70⅛	69⅞
Amerada Hess	51½	50¼
AEP	50½	52
Amer Express	86¼	86⅝
Amer Genl Corp	53⅛	53⅛
Amer Home Pr	74⅛	74½
Amer Intl	105¼	104½
Amer Stores	20⅛	19⅞
Amer Standard	39¼	39⅞
Ameritech	84¼	84
Amgen	52½	52½
Amoco	83⅝	83¼
Andrew Corp	22⅛	22½
Anheuser-Busch	42¼	42⅛
Apple Computer	13⅛	13⅛
Archer Daniels	21¼	21⅛
Armco	4⅛	4¼
Armstrng Wrld	73½	74¼
Asarco	21¼	22⅛
Atl Richfield	77	76
Atmel Corp	19⅛	19⅛
Auto Data Pro	56⅝	55⅛
Avery Dennison	42¼	42⅛
Avon Products	59⅛	59⅞
Baker Hughes	40¼	41½
Baltim Gas & El	32⅝	32¼
Banc One	54½	54
BankAmerica	72½	73¼
Bank of NY	57¼	55¼
Bankers Tr NY	118⅛	117½
Barnett Banks	70½	69⅞
Bausch & Lomb	38⅞	38⅛
Baxter Intl	47⅛	47½
Bectn Dicknsn	50⅛	50⅛
Bell Atlantic	90⅛	90⅛
BellSouth	56½	56¼
Black & Decker	39¼	39¼
Block (H&R)	45¼	45½
Boeing	48⅛	48⅛
Boise Cascade	29⅛	29¼
Boston Scien	42⅛	41⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	91⅛	91⅛
Browning Ferris	35⅞	35⅞
Brunswick	29⅛	29½
Burlington Nthn	93½	93¼
CMS Energy Corp	41⅛	41
CPC Intl	105	103
CSX	53⅛	53⅞
CBS Corp	28⅛	28½
Campbell Soup	56⅛	56⅛
Carolina Pwr	41½	41⅛
Case Corp	58⅝	58⅞
Caterpillar	48¼	48¼
Central & SW	27⅛	26⅛
Champion Intl	43⅛	43⅛
Chase Manhat	108⅛	108½
Chevron Corp	74½	74⅛
Chrysler	34⅞	34⅛
Chubb Corp	76⅞	77⅛
Cigna Corp	164¼	158⅛
Citicorp	127¼	129⅛
Clorox	75⅛	75½
Coastal Corp	60	59½
Coca Cola	66	65⅛
Coca Cola Ent	34⅛	33⅞
Colgate-Palm	67⅞	68½
Columbia Gas	76½	76⅛
ColumbiaHCA	29⅛	28½
Compaq Comp	55	53¼
Comp Ass Intl	50½	50
Conagra	34⅞	35⅛
Cons Edison	40¼	40⅛
Cons Nat Gas	59⅛	58½
Cooper Inds	48⅛	48⅛
Corestates	80¼	79½
Corning Inc	36⅛	35¼
Cwide Credit	41½	40⅛
Crestar Finl	55⅞	56⅛
Crown Cork	48⅞	49⅛
Dana Corp	45	44¼
Dayton Hudson	64¼	65½
Deere	55⅛	55½
Delta Air Lines	115⅛	116⅞
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34
Digital Equip	37½	37¼
Dillard Dept St	33⅞	33⅞
Disney (Walt)	96⅛	95⅞
Dominion Res	41⅛	41⅛
Donelley (RR)	36¼	36½
Dover Corp	34¼	34¼
Dow Chemical	97	96½
Dow Jones	51⅞	53½
Dresser	39⅞	40
Duke Power	54⅛	54⅛
Dun & Brdstreet	30¼	30½
Du Pont	57⅛	56¼
Eastman Chem	58½	57½
Eastman Kodak	57½	58⅛
Eaton Corp	89½	90⅛
Edison Intl	26⅛	25¼
Elect Data Sys	42⅞	42⅛
Emerson Elec	56½	56½
Engelhard Corp	18⅛	17¼
Enron Corp	39⅞	40½
Entergy	27½	27⅞
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8
Exxon	60⅛	60½
FMC Corp	65¼	63⅞
FPL Group	58⅛	58½
Federal Express	56½	56½
Fifth Third Banc	80½	79¼
Fleet Finl Grp	73¼	73⅛
Fluor Corp	38¼	37⅛
Ford Motor	46½	45¼
Fort James	37⅛	38½
Fortune Brands	35⅞	36⅛
Franklin Res	87½	86½
GTE Corp	50⅛	50⅛
Gannett	58½	58⅛
Gap Inc Del	52⅞	53½
Gateway 2000	33	33¼
Gen Dynamics	83½	84¼
Gen Electric	73⅛	73⅛
Gen Mills	72⅛	72½
Gen Motors	59½	58½
Gen Reinsurance	207¼	207½
Gen Signal	41½	40½
Genuine Parts	33	32¼
Georgia Pac	60½	60⅞
Gillette	98¼	97⅞
Glaxo Wellc ADR	47⅛	46½
Goodrich (BF)	41½	41⅛
Goodyear Tire	62¼	62⅛
Great Lakes	44½	42⅛
Halliburton	48½	49⅛
Harcourt General	53⅛	52⅞
Heinz (HJ)	51⅛	51
Hercules	49⅛	47⅛
Hershey Foods	60⅞	60
Hewlett Packard	62½	61⅛
Hilton Hotels	27	26½
Home Depot	56⅛	58½
Homestake Mng	9½	9⅛
Honeywell	67½	67¼
Household Intl	121⅞	120½
Houston Inds	25⅛	24⅛
Humana	19¼	19⅛
ITT Corp	80½	79⅞
Ikon Office	26⅛	26⅛
Illinois Tool	56½	56½
Illinova	25	24⅞
INCO	17⅛	17⅛
Ingersoll Rand	39½	39½
Inland Steel	16⅛	16¼
Intel Corp	71¼	70
IBM	101½	102
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48⅞
Intl Paper	43½	42½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	66¼	66⅛
Kellogg	48⅞	48¼
Kerr-McGee	63⅛	63½
Kimberly-Clark	48⅛	47⅛
Kmart	11⅛	11⅛
Knight-Ridder	51½	51¼
Lilly (Eli)	66¼	66⅛
Limited Inc	23⅞	23⅞
Lincoln Nat	74⅛	74½
Litton	57⅛	57⅞
Liz Claiborne	41⅛	40¼
Lockheed Martin	95¼	94⅛
Louisiana Pac	18⅛	18⅛
MCI Comm	43½	44⅛
Manpower Inc	34⅛	33⅞
Marriott Intl	68⅛	67½
Marsh & McLnn	73⅛	73⅛
Masco Corp	50½	51½
May Dept St	51	52½
Maytag Corp	36⅛	35½
McDonalds	46⅛	45⅞
McGraw Hill	69½	70½
Mead Corp	28½	27⅞
Medtrust Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Medtronic	49⅛	50
Mellon Bk	60¼	59⅞
Merck Inc	104¼	103⅞
Mercury Fin	0½	0⅛
Merrill Lynch	69¼	69⅞
Microsoft	127½	128⅞
Minnesota Mine	84⅛	83½
Mirage Resorts	21½	21½
Mobil Corp	71½	71½
Monsanto	39⅞	41⅛
Morgan (JP)	116½	116
Motorola Inc	57½	58½
Mylan Labs	19⅞	19⅛
Natl Semi	26⅞	26⅛
Natl Service Ind	45½	45½
Navistar Int	23½	23½
NY Times A	61½	64⅛
Newmont Mng	29	28½
Nike B	39½	40½
NL Industries	12⅞	13⅛
Nordstrom	56½	59¼
Norfolk Sthrn	30½	30½
Nthn State Pwr	56⅞	57⅛
Norwest Corp	36⅞	37⅛
Occidental Pet	29⅛	29⅛
Oracle	22⅛	21½
Oryx Energy Co	25¼	23⅛
Owens Corning	34⅛	34⅛
PPG Industries	55¼	55¼
PMI Group	70¼	70⅞
PNC Bank	56¼	56¼
PP&L Res	23⅛	22½
Paccar Inc	54½	54¼
Pacificorp	25⅛	25⅛
Pac Enterprises	36¼	35⅞
PaineWebber	34⅛	34¼
Pall Corp	20¼	20½
Parker Hannifin	44⅞	44⅞
Peco Energy	24⅛	23⅞
Penney (JC)	58⅞	60½
Pennzoil	66⅞	66⅛
Pepsico	35⅛	34¼
Pfizer	73½	72¼
Pharm & Upjhn	36⅛	36
Phelps Dodge	61⅛	61
Philip Morris	44⅛	44⅛
Phillips Pet	47⅞	48
Pitney Bowes	89½	88⅛
Polaroid	48¼	48
Procter & Gmbl	79½	79¼
Providian	43⅛	41¼
Pub Serv E & G	30⅛	29⅞
Quaker Oats	54⅛	53¼
Ralston Purina	91¼	91⅛
Raychem Corp	41⅛	41⅛
Reebok Intl	28¼	28½
Reliastar Fin	39⅛	39⅛
Reynolds Metals	59⅛	58¼
Rockwell Intl	52¼	51½
Rohm & Haas	90⅛	89¼
Royal Dutch	53⅛	53
Rubbermaid	24	23⅞
SBC Comms	75⅛	75⅞
Safeco Corp	47½	47¼
St Paul's Cos	83⅞	83⅛
Sara Lee Corp	55½	55⅛
Schering Plough	59⅛	59⅛
Schlumberger	74⅞	74½
Seagram	30⅛	30¼
Sears Roebuck	41¼	42⅛
Shell Trans	42⅛	42½
Sherwin Wllms	25⅞	26¼
Silicon Graphics	12⅞	13
Snap-On-Tools	43⅞	43½
Southern Co	24½	24
Southtrust	60⅞	60¼
Sprint Corp	56¼	56½
Stanley Works	44⅞	44
Sun Company	42	41¼
Sun Microsys	34¼	38⅞
Suntrust	71½	71½
Supervalu	40¼	40
Synovus Fin	32⅛	32⅛
Sysco Corp	46⅛	46½
TRW Inc	53½	53⅞
TIG Hldgs	31¼	31⅞
Tandy Corp	37	37⅞
Temple Inland	51½	51⅛
Tenet Healthcare	31¼	32¼
Tenneco	38½	38⅞
Texaco	53⅛	53⅛
Texas Inst	45¼	45⅛
Texas Utilities	41⅛	40⅛
Textron	60	58⅞
Thermo Elect	40¼	40⅛
Time Warner	60⅞	61
Times-Mirror A	58⅛	58⅞
Timken	34⅞	34
Torchmark	41¼	40½
Toys R Us	29⅛	29¼
Transamerica	108½	108
Travelers	51¼	53
Tribune	60⅞	60⅛
UST Inc	35¼	35½
US Bancorp	111¼	110⅞
UAL	88⅛	89⅛
Unitrin	62¼	63
US Inds	27⅞	27¼
US West Comm	46⅛	45⅞
US West Media	27¼	27½
USAirways Group	58⅛	59¼
USX Marathon	31⅛	31½
Unicom	30¼	30⅛
Unilever NV	59⅛	59⅞
Union Camp	51½	50¼
Union Carbide	43⅛	42⅞
Union Pacific	60¼	59⅞
Unisys Corp	12⅞	12½
USF&G Corp	22¼	22⅛
United Tech	69¼	69⅞
Unocal Corp	38⅛	38½
VF Corp	44⅞	43⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	38	38¼
Warner-Lambert	123	120⅞
Waste Mngmt	26¼	26⅛
Wells Fargo	336⅞	335
Weyerhaeuser	47½	46½
Whirlpool	52¼	53⅛
Whitman	26	25⅞
Winn Dixie	42⅛	42¼
Witco Corp	40	40⅛
Woolworth	19⅞	19⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	79⅛	77⅛
Xerox	68⅞	68⅞
Xilinx Inc	35¼	36¼

هكذا من الأصل

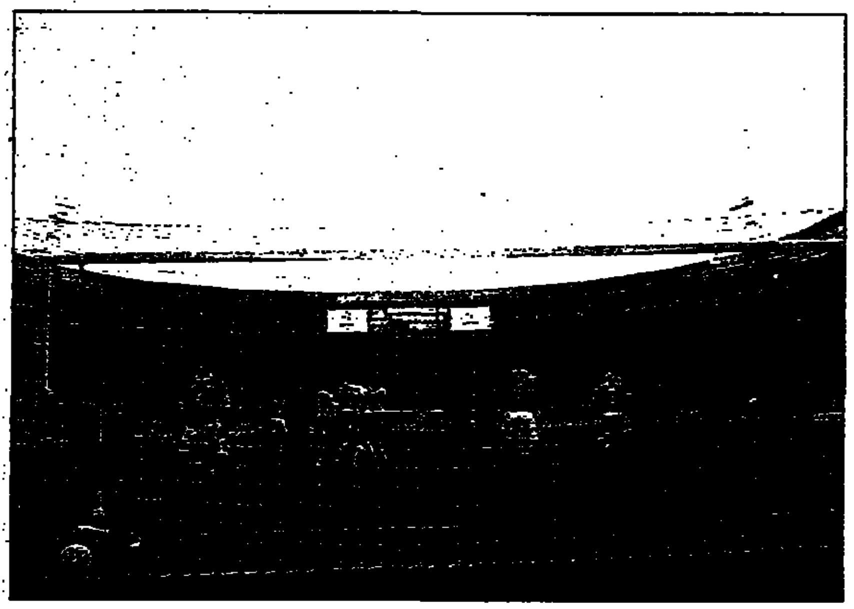
هكذا من الأصل

Did Roger Levitt begin his career at Barlow Clowes, Slater Walker or M&S? Question 24

For whom did the light go out at Ronson? Question 6



What do you get if you pour Guinness into Grand Metropolitan? Question 27



Can you name the player whose injury hit his club's shares, and which quoted football club found itself relegated into administration? Questions 14 and 19

Who decided he had had enough of baked beans? Question 17

Can you remember who made the City headlines this year?

Times writers trawl back through the business year in search of questions fit to test your knowledge

1. Which noted firebrand and rebel told currency speculators it was their duty to blow fixed exchange rates apart once the European currency became a reality? (Clue: the answer is neither George Soros nor Mahathir Mohamad).

2. Which retail star opened a children's boutique on the King's Road and then attempted a comeback takeover of the company that had originally sacked him?

3. Why did a mummified pigmy cause a stir in the City?

4. Which TV mogul quit the industry for a life of leisure at his family firm?

5. Which celebrity chef was hired by Granada to ginger up the restaurants at its Forte hotels?

6. Name the former celebrity undertaker whose career at Ronson, the lighter maker, was abruptly extinguished.

7. And the much-married boss whose career at United Utilities was suddenly under water?

8. And the sailing-mad merchant banker now serving behind the mast at the Bank of England?

9. Which City merchant bank finally won the hand of Simon Robertson, the former head of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and City heavy hitter who was courted by several big institutions when he fell out with its German management?

10. *XXX by XXX* was the typically self-effacing autobiography published this year by which American media magnate?

11. Which Tory grandee was being heavily tipped in the summer as the new chairman of GEC, a post still vacant as the year closed?

12. Match up the happy loving couples: Coopers & Lybrand, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Price Waterhouse.

13. The new City super-watchdog is called (a) the Financial Regulatory Group (b) the Financial Services Authority (c) the Financial Services Group d) the Super-SIB e) the Child Support Agency?

14. Name the star footballer whose injury was an own goal for the share price of his football club?

15. Which former England cricket star is currently using his spinning skills to guide a quoted vehicle investing in the Philippines?

16. Which former motor racing champion steered his company to a stock market flotation?

17. Which former rugby international decided he had had enough of baked beans?

18. Which Rugby League club became the first to float on AIM?

19. Which quoted football club found itself relegated into administration?

20. Which takeover bid was scuppered by a secret film of documents being handed over in a suburban car park?

Was it Kevin Keegan, Lord Moyne or Neville Chamberlain who was most trusting? Question 23

21. Which football club director and former brewer was deprived of his Liberty?

22. Which Prince failed to take possession of his Princess, despite months of courtship?

23. Who said: "I thought, these are decent people. I shall trust them."? (a) Neville Chamberlain; (b) Kevin Keegan; (c) Lord Moyne.

24. Where did Roger Levitt begin his career? (a) Barlow Clowes; (b) Slater Walker; (c) Marks & Spencer

25. The Guinness Report: How long did it take, how many pages does it run to, and how much did it cost? (a) 11 years, 309 pages, £3.1 million; (b) 15 years, 900,000 pages, £5 million; (c) 20 years, 5 pages, £12 million.

26. What momentous event did the Serious Fraud Office celebrate this year? (a) Staff received their first Christmas hampers; (b) Express lifts were installed at Elm House; (c) It achieved convictions in 10 out of 10 fraud trials.

27. What is the name created by Guinness and Grand Metropolitan for their newly merged company? (a) Diageo; (b) Vesuvio; (c) Lothario.

Compiled by Martin Waller, Jason Nissé and Jon Ashworth.

Answers will be published in *The Times* Business section on Boxing Day

MARKETING

It's not just the thought that counts

Exactly how did your office, once the corporate nerve centre, come to resemble an Argos catalogue showrooom? As you survey the motley collection of leather jotters, fountain pens, branded windcheater jackets, Waterford crystal and cuddly toys the answer dawns on you; someone, somewhere is trying to say thank you.

Along with countless other businessmen and women you are the target of a concerted marketing drive which climaxes at about this time of year in a stampede of calf-skin desk diaries. Long regarded as a dumping ground for cheap merchandise the idiosyncratic corporate gift industry is striving to rid itself of its "freebie" image and enter the marketing mainstream as a viable method of winning customer loyalty.

George Hayward, who as chairman of the British Advertising Gift Association represents the middlemen in the exchange process, says "gifting" remains a cheap and effective way of building that all-important one-to-one relationship.

"If advertising is like grapeshot then this is sniper fire. You're never certain with advertising, but send them a gift and you know you're getting your message through to that individual," he says.

The association estimates the market is worth £500 million a year in the United Kingdom. That figure is set to rise as companies send fewer, but higher-quality items rather than flood the market with mediocre merchandise.

Gill Thorpe, director of The Sourcing Team, a company specialising in promotional merchandise, says: "These days people tend to concentrate on quality rather than on quantity. People can work out the cost of things very quickly so it's better to go for something with added value, something that they won't necessarily know the price of."

T-shirts and cheap cut-glass tumblers may still be the preferred medium for a mass promotion, but to make a real impact companies are tailoring gifts to suit the needs of the individual customer.

No longer can the industry favourite — a black leather diary discreetly embossed with the company logo — be relied upon as the best vehicle for your message. With some 50 million diaries — two for every adult in the country — sent to companies each year, only the diary that cuts a dash wins the day.

Colin Cowan, managing director of diary maker Castelli UK, says: "When you advertise, your ad should be unique: and the same goes for your company's diary."

More companies are asking for different colours, materials and radical designs to give their diaries a fighting chance of staying on the recipient's desk and not landing in the bin. "The English think the diary should be staid and black but things are changing. What would you rather have, one really individual diary or five black leather ones?" says Mr Cowan.

Does anyone want them at all? Everyone does it but no one really knows why, or whether it even works.

The giving and receiving of gifts is a sensitive subject and shrouded in secrecy. Measurement of effectiveness is virtually impossible. Donors rarely divulge how much they give away and whether it works. Likewise, *those who regularly receive* gifts are unwilling to slate them for fear of being branded churlish.

Gifting has slowly, but surely, woven its way into the fabric of business life. Yet despite the boom reported by the industry, many companies still regard the line between a corporate gift and bribery as one they would prefer not to tread. Mobil, for example, forbids employees from accepting gifts or entertainment worth more than £35 or 1 per cent of that person's monthly salary.

One high street bank has a room in its City headquarters nicknamed Aladdin's Cave, where gifted merchandise is stored and then sold off at auction.

Others simply don't want yet another paperweight on their desk. "I'm having to say to people 'look, I'm not doing business with you because you give me a gift box set of port and cheese — nice though that may be. I'm with you because you give me good service'," says the sales director of a small engineering company who wanted to remain anonymous.

As with any advertising medium it can fall victim to poor targeting. Most companies aim their gift marketing at the highest tier of a company's management. They should lower their sights, says an unnamed Ford dealership fleet sales manager who spends £25,000 a year on gifts.

"There is often no point in hitting the decision maker. Once he has made that decision he walks away from it for another two years, leaving the running of the business to a team of minions beneath him. They are the ones you have got to hit. But at the end of the day you can't buy loyalty."

JULIAN LEE

BUSINESS LETTERS

Policyholders accept management costs, but what of mismanagement?

From Mr W. M. Roberts

Sir, You gave prominence to the report of the Financial Services Authority on the Prudential Corporation (Business News, December 17). I am not one of those who was a victim of mis-selling of pension policies but I shall, from next year, be dependent in part on annuities provided by retirement annuity policies.

Contributors to policies accept that they have to incur the costs of managing the funds they subscribe.

In the case of policies with mutual societies, there is, it seems, no one to bear the costs of compensating those who were sold the wrong policies, of ascertaining who should be compensated and the "fines" levied by the regulators other than policyholders themselves.

In the case of companies none of these costs should fall on policyholders but should be borne by the shareholders who own the business and have it in their power to ensure that the directors provide skilled management and appropriate compliance procedures. What steps is the Financial Services Authority taking to ensure that holders of policies with companies bear only the costs of managing their policies and not the costs of "mismanaging" their marketing and sales operations in a way which has given rise to the need for compensation and its associated costs?

Yours faithfully,
W. M. ROBERTS,
Brock House,
Manor Lane,
Great Chesterford,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Letters to the *The Times* Business section may be sent by fax to 0171 782 5112 or by e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Paid monthly

CAREERS don't come much shorter *than this*. Gerard Wainwright, appointed chief executive of Care First on December 13, could be queueing up at the DSS by the New Year. Well, not exactly at the DSS, because he is not short of a bob or two, having already sold one business and turned around another, but you know what I mean. Yesterday's agreed bid for the nursing homes group from Bupa means he could be out of a job, if the new owners decide to run the show themselves. And no pay-off, because he was brought in on a one-month rolling contract. "I insisted on no *contractual obligations on the part of* the company — I got involved in the knowledge that a bid was on the table. They insisted on one month," he says, which must have given the negotiations with the head-hunters a surreal air.

The business he sold in 1993 was Britain's biggest hospital bedmaker, and healthcare remains his first love. We reminisce briefly about the days when his biggest competitor in the hospital bed business doubled up, perversely, as a civil engineer.

"Who told you a woman's best friend was socks? . ."

☐ *THE Salomon Brothers name no longer existing after the merger with Smith Barney, the American investment bank was left with various bits of corporate merchandise — gym bags, golf balls and, for some reason, a large number of those fashionable fleecy tops — still carrying it. The bank has just auctioned these, raising £10,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. There was some spirited secondary dealing, too, after someone from equities cornered the market in golf balls and fixed income snapped up all the fleecy tops.*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Heavy weather

JOHN KETTELEY, the former Warburg merchant banker who chairs Country Casuals, is hoping for a quiet week, having just pulled off his third deal in ten days. A bleary Ketteley recalls that a big disposal ten days ago by Eleco, chairman J Ketteley, was followed by a disposal by BTP, chairman ditto, late last week. Then Country Casuals was bought by Austin Reed yesterday. He emphasises the contributions of his various colleagues but admits: "It wasn't much fun getting up at six o'clock and getting to bed at half past four." Ketteley is chairman of a fourth company, Prolific Income Trust. Anything happening there over the next few days, perhaps?

He sounds appalled, as if the idea has only just occurred to him. "No. But if something does, I think my wife is going to have something to say about it."

Goose cooked

AS the old year ebbs away, what news of an old friend of this column, the disgraced German property tycoon Jürgen Schneider? The one-time fugitive from justice, whose colourful defence was that the banks must have known he was a crook, as no one could have been so stupid as to believe him, will today learn of his sentence. In a folksy and heartfelt plea at the end of the six-month trial, Schneider has begged the judge to let him walk free, saying he would like nothing more than to spend Christmas at home in Frankfurt eating goose with his family. The prosecutors are in less festive mood. Schneider has also come clean on another vital matter. The famed toupée, about as convincing as his defence, has gone.

☐ *WHEN you run a group like* The Mirror *with all that colourful history behind it, the last people you want to tangle with are the Inland Revenue. So David Montgomery, Mirror chief executive, yesterday did a bit of financial spring cleaning, selling 510,000 shares at 195p, largely to meet liabilities incurred under new legislation that requires payment in advance of half the bill for the latest gains on options. Monty is sitting out the two big Christmas media auctions, the sale of IPC by Reed Elsevier and United's disposal of its remaining regional newspapers.*

EMU on song

KPMG Management Consulting has produced a festive variant of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* — only it's all about EMU! "On the first day of EMU, KPMG warned me: there'll soon be a single currency." Oh, we laughed around here, I can tell you. I will spare you more. (Or I might reproduce the whole thing in the New Year, if Santa is not very, very good to me). But I have a snap of Michael Littlechild, a partner, giving a rendition. I leave it to you to decide how much he is enjoying the experience.

MARTIN WALLER

Michael Littlechild: only 12 days to go

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7886				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	135.86	144.80	- 1.43	..
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.54	134.54		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.97	116.12	+ 0.05	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	105.85	105.85		
Cash	956.06	961.84	.	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	368.70	392.20	- 7.20	1.72
UK Small Cos	78.60	84.06	+ 0.01	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	98.60	103.52	...	2.11
Geared UK Index	2230.40	2354.57	-37.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	81.50	84.46	+ 0.09	...
Monthly Inc	42.00	44.81†	- 0.19	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	284.60	301.80	- 4.80	.
American Strat	221.21	236.58	- 0.69	..
JG US Index	2283.18	2405.84	+44.00	4.08
European Gen	321.90	340.70	- 4.38	.
European Strat	135.18	144.57	- 1.19	
Japan Gen	100.90	107.00	- 4.69	
Asia Pacific	66.17	70.57	.	1.88
Pacific Strat	103.11	110.27	- 1.62	..
Greater China	192.13	205.49	- 2.45	..
Latin America	101.37	108.40†	- 2.12	
Intl Growth	159.32	170.38	- 1.01	..
Balanced Exempt	154.60	160.00		
Global Strategy	44.73	47.83	- 1.76	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	827.80	880.60	- 4.40	2.58
General Inc	674.80	717.60	- 3.70	2.58
UK Growth Acc	571.90	608.40	- 3.40	2.55
UK Growth Inc	361.50	384.50	- 2.10	2.55
Higher Inc Acc #	1054.00	1121.00	- 5.90	4.87
Higher Inc Inc #	541.30	575.80	- 2.40	4.87
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	232.80	248.10	+ 0.50	5.60
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	97.02	102.50	+ 0.20	5.60
Nth America	399.20	424.60	- 2.70	.
Europe	432.40	460.00	- 3.00	0.61
Brit Excell	113.90	121.10	- 0.50	2.30
Brit Fndmtls Acc	144.00	153.10	- 0.80	4.54
Brit Fndmtls Inc	92.37	98.26	- 0.35	4.54
Global Opps	105.80	112.50	- 0.90	0.81
Balanced Acc	71.46	76.02	- 0.42	2.43
Balanced Inc	65.38	69.55	- 0.38	2.43
Japan Acc	31.94	33.97	- 0.94	
Pac Basin Acc	268.10	285.30	- 4.10	2.33
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	143.10	151.90†	+ 0.20	5.80
High Inc Equity	217.90	233.00	- 1.10	4.33
Worldwide Bond	270.50	285.90†	- 0.40	3.49
American Growth	506.30	540.50	- 5.60	0.31
Asian Pacific	210.50	225.10	- 2.40	0.50
Assets & Earnings	334.40	357.60†	- 0.50	2.86
Euro Capital Acc	234.80	251.10	- 3.00	0.79
Extra Inc	42.73	45.03†	+ 0.10	9.24
General	310.60	330.40	- 1.00	2.97
Global Opps	73.10	77.77	- 0.91	0.41
Japan	68.79	73.57	- 2.35	.
Managed Inc	51.42	54.71†	- 0.15	4.11
Masterinvest	179.60	192.10	- 1.10	1.16

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	923.19	937.15	+ 8.98	3.71
Investment Acc	4436.87	4503.57	+42.87	...
Fixed Int Inc	133.66	134.20	...	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	288.77	289.85	+ 1.64	8.54
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	95.33	103.38	..	5.88
Beck Bio-Tech	39.63	42.19†	..	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.41	234.48‡		0.52
City Fin Assets	87.20	91.57	+ 1.01	2.94
City Fin Intl	86.82	92.35	..	0.05
Fitzrs Hse Cap	387.88	391.35	+ 1.97	1.60
Buckley Vale Grth	141.80	150.40	..	..
Shaw Utilities	82.80	84.72†	.	3.54
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	46.58	48.42	- 0.69	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grwth	94.88	100.94	- 0.38	..
Dragon Growth	44.67	47.77	- 0.71	1.66
Equity High Inc	112.97	119.54†	- 0.50	3.18
-do- Accum	170.52	180.44	- 0.75	3.19
Extra Income Inc	29.06	30.59	+ 0.08	6.04
Extra Income Acc	33.78	35.58	+ 0.09	6.04
European Grwth	78.46	83.03	- 0.46	0.18
Evergreen	34.42	36.81	- 0.04	...
General Equity	130.83	138.08	- 0.80	2.34
Japan Growth	30.24	32.17	- 1.24	.
Pedigree Grwth	79.45	84.07	- 0.42	1.48
Pnl Sml Cos Inc	41.79	44.22	+ 0.04	1.35
-do- Accum	44.99	47.61	+ 0.04	1.35
Retirement Inc #	33.55	35.69	- 0.18	5
Special Sits	53.91	57.97	- 0.13	2.44
UK & Overseas	65.05	68.84	- 0.58	8.54
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 808 000				
Balanced	80.09	83.42	- 0.43	3.58
Capital	97.92	102.00	- 0.72	1.95
High Income	56.74	59.10†	+ 0.15	6.38
Top 50	72.21	75.21	- 0.49	1.34
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	227.08	238.57	- 0.42	4.28
Long Gilt	51.08	53.16	+ 0.10	4.86
Monthly Inc Plus	58.08	61.56	+ 0.14	7.28
Preference Share	58.11	60.54	+ 0.14	6.44
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	163.86	170.81	- 0.47	3.64
Managed Fund	82.88	87.38	- 0.49	2.43
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.00	53.84	- 0.06	1.58
-do- Accum	61.88	64.38	- 0.07	1.58
UK & General	121.68	126.60	- 0.45	2.14
-do- Accum	162.96	169.77	- 0.61	2.14
UK Growth	241.27	251.35	- 0.86	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	259.12	269.94	- 1.95	0.50
Far Eastern Grth	90.84	94.63	- 2.04	0.30
Global Bond	71.52	74.51	+ 0.12	5.15

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt @	90.04	90.04†	+ 0.19	5.93
Global Growth @	78.47	78.47	- 0.87	0.43

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	427.40	452.80	- 5.70	0.13
General	702.40	746.80	- 6.30	2.15

TRAVEL

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond @	48.79	48.79	+ 0.17	4.98
Japanese @	49.95	49.95†	- 1.41	..
North American @	281.20	281.20	- 0.80	..
Pacific Growth @	75.42	75.42	- 1.19	0.90
Pacific Index @	30.69	30.69†	- 0.36	3.29
UK Index @	94.12	94.12†	- 0.43	2.80
UK Recovery @	135.90	135.90†	- 0.40	1.46
UK Smaller Cos @	178.60	178.60	+ 0.18	1.19
US Index @	108.80	108.80‡	- 0.30	0.71
European Index @	110.70	110.70	- 0.90	1.68
Japan Index @	23.81	23.81	- 0.97	..
Worldwide @	108.80	108.80†	- 0.60	1.13
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 628				
Growth	68.19	72.93†	- 0.45	2.11
Income	80.58	86.14†	- 1.01	3.51
Far East	29.03	31.04	- 0.87	.
North American	156.50	166.90†	- 0.30	..
Global	87.45	93.52	- 0.74	0.34
European	120.70	128.80	- 1.10	0.62
Japan	55.46	59.17	- 2.81	..
Intl Currency Bd	58.06	58.90	+ 0.22	4.88
SE Asia	60.38	64.58	- 0.56	0.68
UK Cap Growth	121.60	130.00	- 0.90	1.80
Recovery Trust	97.25	104.00	+ 1.70	2.65
Managed	74.23	79.37	+ 0.21	1.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	1493.80	1590.60	- 12.80	2.15
Global Bond	127.00	133.40	- 0.20	4.79
-do- Accum	176.70	185.70	- 0.20	4.79
Gold & General	113.00	121.90	+0.500	0.59
-do- Accum	117.00	125.30	+0.800	0.59
Govt Securities	100.70	103.89†	+0.100	5.25
-do- Accum	226.90	238.90†	+0.200	5.25
High Yield Bd	108.50	112.20†	+0.200	5.99
-do- Accum	124.40	127.50†	+0.200	5.99
Income	221.80	240.50†	- 2.40	3.65
-do- Accum	408.70	425.90†	- 4.30	3.65
Inc Portfolio #	127.90	135.40	- 0.90	4.82
-do- Accum #	145.70	154.30	- 1.10	4.82
Intl Opps	603.90	644.20‡	- 8.50	0.77
-do- Accum	823.20	878.10†	-11.80	0.77
Japan	128.00	136.50	- 4.40	...
-do- Accum	131.30	140.10	- 4.50	..
New Europe	280.80	299.50	- 0.30	0.84
-do- Accum	294.70	314.40	- 0.30	0.84
Pacific	67.82	72.33	- 1.11	0.31
-do- Accum	73.17	78.02	- 1.21	0.31
Recovery	546.50	582.97	- 3.10	1.60
-do- Accum	731.40	780.20	- 4.10	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	67.70	72.21	+0.210	1.63
-do- Accum	79.28	84.56	+0.240	1.63
Portfolio	106.50	112.80	- 1.20	2.63
-do- Accum	134.20	142.32	- 1.40	2.63

هكذا من الأصل

Equities mark time

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
584	407½	Allied Domecq	514	+ 4	4.8	13.2
628	382½	Bulmer (HP)	380	...	4.8	11.9
75½	48½	Burn Stewart	42½	...	10.0	14.8
639½	424	Diageo	570	- 1	3.2	17.4
1040	840	Glenmorangie A†	850	- 7½	2.8	28.6
380	280	Highland Distill	287½	..	3.9	13.9
336	176	Matthew Clark	176	- 6½	14.6	5.5
108½	47½	Maydon W	61	- 2½	6.4	...
2008½	1388½	SA Breweries	1443½	+ 6½	2.5	...

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¼	918½	ABN-AMRO	1200	- 6¼	2.6	17.3
1200	710	Abbey Nat	1028	- 37	3.4	16.8
885	532½	Alliance & Leic	811	+ 12	2.5	19.0
608	388½	Allied Irish	558½	- 9	3.2	16.5
518½	363½	Aus New Z	372½	- 9¼	5.5	...
4953½	2375	Bank America	4378½	- 34½		
606	291½	Bank Scotland	577	+ 18	1.9	18.0
1808	978½	Barclays	1602	- 17	2.6	15.2
924½	517½	Bk of Ireland	879	- 16	2.4	19.3
8959½	6096½	Citicorp	7706¼	+ 103½	...	...
1759½	1288½	Commerzbk	1837½	- 8¼	2.8	
862½	385½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	355½	- 49½	1.1	77.5
4593½	2705½	Deutsche Bk	4221½	+ 31¼	1.4	...
1358	759½	Espirito Santo	1171½	+ 3½	3.1	
[illegible]	209½	Fuji Bank Y	217½	- 26¼	1.8	42.8
[illegible]	1272½	HSBC	1520	- 3	3.8	12.3
2258½	1228	HSBC HK	1452	- 1	4.0	11.8
783	507	Halifax	759	- 2	2.4	25.8
645	483½	Irish Perm	635	...	2.4	17.5
800½	424	Lloyds TSB	736	+ 8	2.4	21.4
1008	698½	Nat Aust Bk	793½	- 4	4.8	...
1061	653½	Nat West	1012	+ 2	3.7	16.0
666½	449	Northern Rock	584½	+ 1	2.9	22.3
780	508	Ryl Bk Scott	742	- 8	3.6	14.5
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	654	- 1	3.0	11.4
£164½	£184½	Wells Fargo	£184½	...	1.9	...
403½	315½	Westpac	368½	+ ¼	3.8	
379½	287½	Woolwich	317½	- 2½	3.1	18.8

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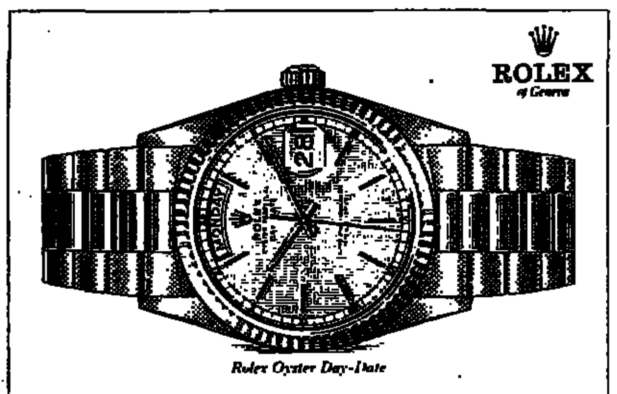

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hergle

LONDON

MESSIAH The 250-strong Goldsmith's Choral Union combine forces with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the traditional pre-Christmas performance of Handel's magnificent oratorio. Soloists include Mary Hegarty and Anne-Marie Owens. Brian Wright conducts.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

A more modest-scale *Messiah* can be enjoyed as Stephen Layton and his acclaimed vocal ensemble Polyphony, backed by instrumental group Canzona, tackle the work. A distinguished line-up of soloists includes Emma Kirkby, James Bowman and John Mark Ainsley.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm

SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL: A concert by the Joyful Company of Singers directed by Peter Broadbent features compositions inspired by the Nativity ranging from the Renaissance music of Victoria and Gabrieli to the 20th-century works of Poulenc and Barber. The programme also offers a world premiere of a work by Judith Weir, *illuminare Jerusalem*.
Christ Church, Commercial Street, E1 (0171-377 0287). Tonight, 6.30pm

WILLIAM TELL: The award-winning Natural Theatre Company gives its version of how Rossini came to compose his opera about the Swiss hero. Whacky props, bizarre characters and situations, and skilled musicianship, form part of the company's unique performance style. Director is John Abulafia, with Ralph Oswick doubling as Tell and the Italian composer from whom the music is borrowed.
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** and Youth Choruses under Simon Halsey performs a programme of seasonal music offering the audience a chance to sing along to a selection of favourite Christmas carols.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

Also in **Birmingham**. Fun and frolics are in store for pantomime goers as a star-studded cast headed by boxing champion Frank Bruno creates havoc with the classic fairy tale **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. Billed as "Britain's biggest pantomime" the production promises comedy, special effects and heaps of family fun.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Opens tonight, 7.15pm. Then eves, 7.15pm; mats at varying times. Until 14 Feb. ♿

Frank Bruno stars in *Goldilocks*, Birmingham

CARDIFF: Following last Christmas's soaraway success the magnificent **Moscow City Ballet** returns to town with a Christmas spectacular of two of Tchaikovsky's best-loved ballets: *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*. With the National Ballet Orchestra.
St David's Hall, The Hayes (01222 878444). *Beauty Opens today*, 2.30, 7.30. Then Dec 27, 29, 30, 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Dec 28, 5pm. Closed Dec 24-26. *Nutcracker* Opens Jan 2, 7.30pm. Then Jan 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Jan 4, 5pm ♿

LEEDS. Entertainment for all the family is offered here as Wild Rose International presents its new spectacular *The Sleeping Beauty on Ice*. Set to Tchaikovsky's glorious score the production is performed by the **Russian Ice Stars**, some 20 Olympic standard skaters, with the national champions Ekaterina Murugova and Alexei Killakov in the roles of Beauty and the Prince. The choreography is by Giuseppe Arena and Valeri Petchersk.
Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate (0113-245 9351/440971). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then eves, 7.30pm, some mats, 2.30pm and 3pm. Closed Christmas Day. Ends Jan 3 ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Carter (0171-323 8525) . **Hayward:** Objects of Desire (0171-928 3144) **National:** Hogarth's Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-306 0055) . **Royal Academy:** Victorian Fairy Painting (0171-439 7438) **Serpentine:** Piero Manzoni (0171-402 6075) **Tate:** Symbolism in Britain (0171-887 8000) .. **V & A:** Carl and Karin Larsson (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ House full, returns only
- ◩ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

■ **ART** Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

◩ ***BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

◩ **DAVID COPPERFIELD** Likable compression job on Dickens' novel. Intriguing set and a rich cast of *eccentric characters*. Damien Matthews plays David.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, mid-week mats Dec 18, 2.30pm, Dec 22, 26, 27, 29, 3pm, Jan 15, 2.30pm. Until January 24 ♿

◩ **THE FRONT PAGE** Alun Armstrong and Griff Rhys Jones play hard-nosed editor and ace reporter, leading a lovely cast in Sam Mendes's production of the classic Ben Hecht/Charles MacArthur comedy.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◩ **THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR** Jonathan Kent directs Tom Hollander as the presumed inspector, Brian Murphy as his servant and Ian McDiarmid as the devious Mayor in Gogol's satire.
Almeida Theatre, 108 Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Opens Dec 17, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until January 31 ♿

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Return of Peter Hall's enjoyable production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Martin Shaw and Simon Ward, and Kate O'Mara as the svelte troublemaker.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

■ **THE INVENTION OF LOVE** Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rhys plays the young Housman. Richard Eyre directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30p. In rep

☐ **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

☐ **LITTLE EYOLF** Terrific playing by Robert Glenister and Joanne Pearce at the heart of Adrian Noble's superb Ibsen production. Guilt, remorse and renewal on the fjord.
Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm.

◩ **THE MAGISTRATE** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a fitfully funny revival of Pinero's farce. *Cast includes Graham Crowden,* Frank Middlemass, John Padden.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◩ **TREASURE ISLAND** Tom Georgeson straps himself into the wooden leg for Neil Bartlett's adaptation of Stevenson's classic tale of pirates, doubloons, cutlasses and a longing for toasted cheese.
Lyric, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). *Mon-Sat, 7.30pm (except Dec 31, 6pm),* mats Sat, 2.30pm and Dec 23,24,26,31, 2.30pm, mats Dec 9,11,16, Jan 8,14, 1.30pm. Until January 17 ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **Grease:** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . ☐ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) ◩ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ◩ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . ◩ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ◩ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ☐ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CLOSE-UP: Impoverished man poses as an Iranian film director. Fascinating and humane drama, based on truth, from Abbas Kiarostami.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647) **Rio** (0171-254 6677)

◆ **GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE** (U): Tarzanesque hero finds romance in America. Passable romp based on the TV cartoon series, with Brendan Fraser and Leslie Mann.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HOME ALONE 3** (PG): Another Christmas, another kid left alone to fight intruders. Unappealing sequel with a different tyke (Alex D. Linz) and a tougher edge. Director, Raja Gosnell.
ABC Baker St (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Camden** (0181-315 4255) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015)

KISS ME, GUIDO (15): Crowd-pleasing comedy about gays and straights in New York. With Nick Scotti, Anthony Barrile. Director, Tony Vitale.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **PRINCE VALIANT** (PG): Spirited nonsense set in Arthurian times, with Stephen Moyer, Katherine Heigl and Joanna Lumley.
Warner ♿ *(0171-437 4343)*

CURRENT

◆ **THE BORROWERS** (U): Minuscule scavengers fight for their home. Exhilarating family film, much adapted from the children's classic. With John Goodman, Jim Broadbent.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ♿ (0990 888990) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U): Frank Capra's American classic, revived in a new print. With James Stewart as the doubting do-gooder.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ *(0171-437 4343)*

THE TANGO LESSON (PG): A film director learns to tango. Brave and enticing film by the director Sally Potter, who co-stars with Pablo Veron.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (0181-315 4215) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **TOMORROW NEVER DIES** (12): Pierce Brosnan's James Bond combats an evil media mogul (Jonathan Pryce). Set piece thrills, but little sparkle. With Michelle Yeoh and Teri Hatcher. Director, Roger Spottiswoode.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) ***Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216)* **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

The Scottish play on words

The Babes in the Wood
Players'

You do not need to know any Donizetti to enjoy the annual pantomime at the Players', but it adds to the pleasure, as does a bit of Bellini and a vestige of Verdi, because the Victorian pantos the company resurrects, usually those by Henry Byron, plundered opera for tunes. The chosen style was burlesque, which has now vanished from the theatre, although it sometimes surfaces elsewhere, famously in the musical skits of *The Two Ronnies*.

Mocking what other areas of the theatre take very seriously — such as death, murder, abduction, Valkyries *on horseback or marrying your mother* — burlesque introduces a sense of proportion and restores an audience to normal life (always assuming this normality excludes murder, mayhem and mother-marriage).

Alliteration is something else Byron brazenly baked into his scripts, along with deliberately dreadful puns that bring groans to the gullet.

For some mad reason of his own, Byron grafted the story of the two dear little abandoned babies onto the home life of the Macbeths. Perhaps Balmoral had just been built when this panto was written (1859) and Scotland was back in fashion again as a result. Thus we have Sir Rowland and Lady Beth Macassar, guardians of the offspring of an elder brother supposedly drowned at sea. Three witches gather around a cauldron and spread seeds of dark deeds into the minds of the Macassars, who appear in turn through a patch of gauze in the heather-tinted backdrop.

Lady Beth would like to become a thane in her own right, to which a protesting hubby replies (*and it is* par for the punning course): "You must be mad — you surely can't be thane!" As Robert Meadwell plays him, hesitant, harrowed and hunched with guilt, you can all but hear the exclamation mark at the end of the line.

The entire show is written in couplets, and I cannot say to what extent Geoffrey Brawn, adapter and director, has twiddled with them. There is no pretence at poetry, of course, and a line can be distributed between several speakers in an enjoyably ludicrous manner.

So, for example, when the missing *father reappears* on the scene (surprise, surprise) and the amorous governess asks the Fairy Queen if she is the missing mother, all three characters share the second line of the couplet, thus: "Their stepmother, I confess./He is a widower." "Oh, are you?" "Yes."

The Players' has perfected the style of performing with the tongue metaphorically wedged in the cheek, but there are areas of the present production where a touch of restraint should have been employed. The witches are not played well, and the brattish behaviour of the adolescent babes (Michelle Grant and Jennifer Morton) sparks no mirth in the audience.

Fortunately there is enough in other parts of the show to satisfy the wish for arty nonsense: the ferociously kilted Meadwell, and his superbly contralto missus (Eleanor McCready), sleepwalking in a mob cap, moaning and sobbing on cue; Jo Napthine's Fairy Queen regularly announcing her identity with a snatch of adapted Verdi; Pat Lancaster's nicely coy Governess doing *something of the same sort to maintain* her decorum. And when a dead robber has to be removed from the stage, he turns into a ghost and strides off. Admirable.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Sporran partners: Jennifer Morton and Michelle Grant as the Babes

POP: Company loves misery of California's beautiful losers; devil of a noise from Ipswich

Adam and the angst

Counting Crows
Olympia, Dublin

IF, AS Henry David Thoreau observed, most men lead lives of quiet desperation, the American representa*tives of the sex are generally a bit more* vocal about their trials and tribulations. From Kurt Cobain to Mark Eitzel, the West Coast is as noted for the degree of existential fear and self-loathing among its pop community as it is for sun-tanned psychedelia and surf rock.

So it should not come as that much of *a surprise to find that for California's* Counting Crows, it is permanently December and always, always raining. But while the angst-soaked lyrics and winsome whine of singer Adam Duritz suggest another troubled soul who just wasn't made for these times, he appears to be, judging by the near hysteria which greeted his every strut, *the pop star with whom everyone in the* audience would most like to share an umbrella.

Duritz himself seemed bamboozled by the reaction. One senses he is uneasy with his sex symbol status, but every now and then he plays up to it: such as when standing on the monitor during *Rain King*, for example, arms outstretched, declaring that he "belongs in the service of the Queen".

But more than anything else, the *dreadlocked Duritz wants to be taken* seriously. Rather than just trot out the songs and lap up the adoration he opted for substantial reworkings of his material. At one stage, during *Round Here*, he even shushed the audience so we could all hear another of Charles Gillingham's ponderous keyboard breaks.

Given that this was a Friday night and the penultimate gig of a 16-month tour promoting the album *Recovering the Satellites*, one would have expected a little less intricacy and a little more exuberance. Indeed, the acoustic set — usually a welcome breather between the opening dash and closing sprint of a show — lasted for more than half the *gig. At times, the show seemed like one* long rehearsal for that *Unplugged* special which must be just around the corner.

But you can't blame a band for wanting to keep things interesting for themselves and in truth the blend of plaintive accordion, mandolin and acoustic guitar was not without its *charm. Indeed, their finest moment is* possibly the piano-led lament, *A Long December*, which made for a sadly beautiful encore.

NICK KELLY

Counting Crowley

Cradle of Filth
LA2, W1

RATHER like the anti-heroes of gangsta rap, black metal bands tread a fine line between absurd burlesque *and grim reality. For those unfamiliar* with the genre, black metal is an extreme combination of gothic rock and thrash metal garnished to taste with a vaguely Satanic or anti-Christian philosophy. In Norway, where they take these things seriously, the singer of a black metal group called Burzum was jailed for 21 years for *murdering a member of a rival band.* In Ipswich, Cradle of Filth's home town, the worst that has happened so far is that a couple of fans have been cautioned for wearing the group's gratuitously offensive T-shirts.

Whatever they get up to in the woods at night, Cradle of Filth are pure pantomime on stage. They all dress in *black leather and huge biker boots.* The singer, Dani, and sundry guitarists all have long, shaggy mops of jet black hair which they shake and whirl with impressive ferocity.

The music is sometimes played very slowly, like that of Black Sabbath, but more often ludicrously fast in a bizarre, comic-book style invented in the 1980s by Napalm Death. On songs including *A Gothic Romance (Red Roses for the Devil's Whore)* and the title track of their album, *Dusk and Her Embrace*, Dani's vocals alternate between a high, strangulated yell and a deep, vomit-simulating roar.

The audience is almost as entertaining to watch as the band. Some lurk in the shadows, their white-painted faces and black panda eyes a homage to originators such as Count Dracula and Alice Cooper. Others hurl themselves towards the group, surfing over the heads of the crowd to land in the arms of the over-worked security staff patrolling the foot of the stage.

Despite much effort, the on-stage theatrics are distinctly low-budget. During the last number a dominatrix appears brandishing a Super Soaker water gun filled with a gooey red liquid. She squirts it at the crowd, but the pump is faulty, and most of it lands on the bald head of the long-suffering bouncer in front of the stage.

"We like to play as close as possible to midnight," Dani announced, as the set drew to a close at 10pm to make way for the venue's gay club night. As the *sweaty disciples spilled out into the* cold night air one question remained: if the devil has all the best tunes, then what was he doing tonight?

DAVID SINCLAIR

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BRIEFLY NOTED

Rent for London

THEATRE: The West End will see *Rent*, the hottest ticket on Broadway, next year. The musical, a reworking of Puccini's opera *La Bohème* that places the story in present-day New York, opened at the New York Theatre Workshop in February 1996, before transferring to Broadway in April that year. It then played to continuously sold-out houses and won four Tony Awards. The death of its young creator, Jonathan Larson, just before the show opened did nothing to hinder its subsequent cult success. Four of the Broadway cast will be starring in the London production, which opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre on May 12.

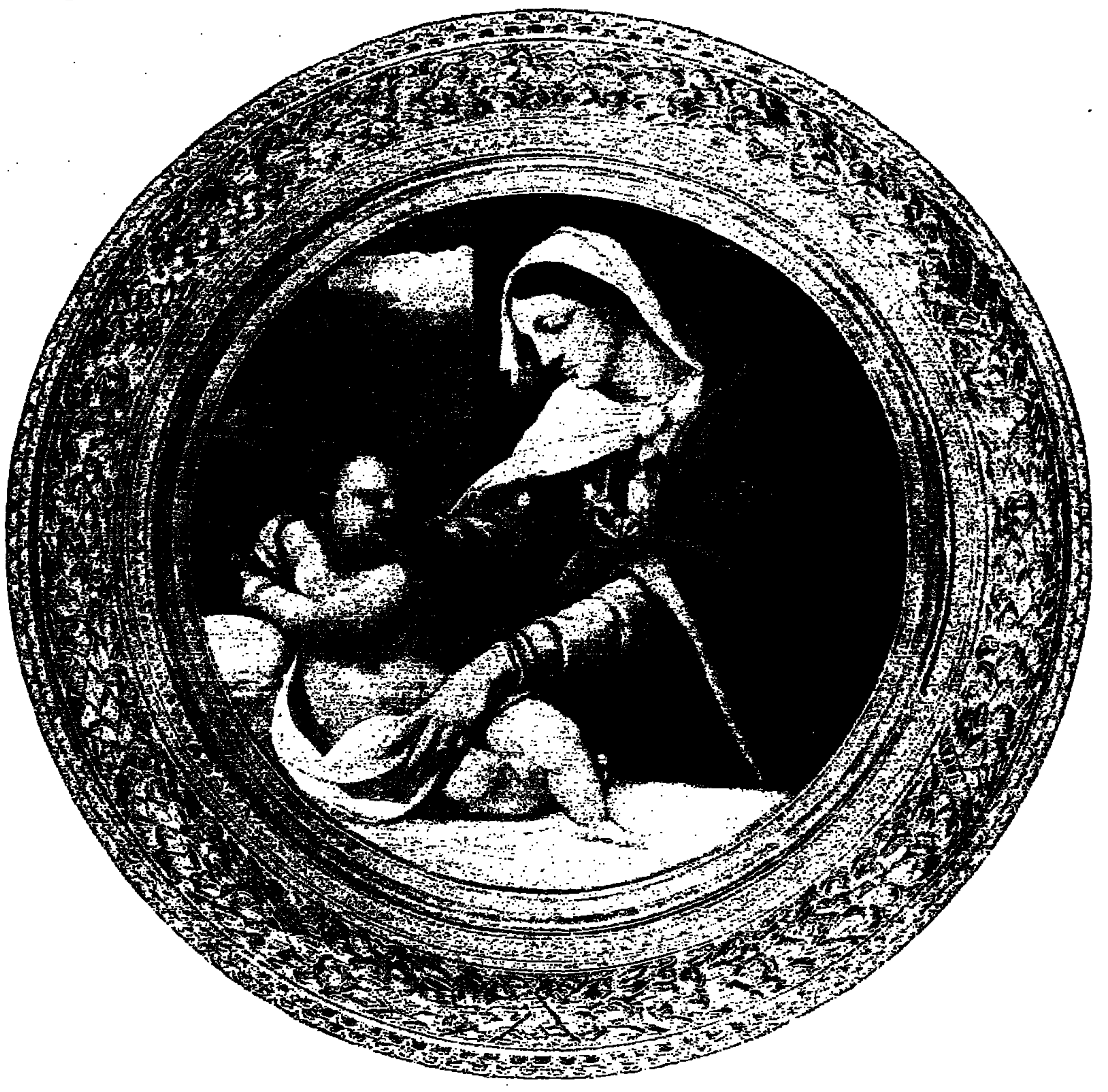
POP: The backlash against the Prodigy title *Smack My Bitch Up* continues with the decision by 4,000 American high-street stores to remove the album containing the song from their shelves. Wal-Mart and Kmart stores decided not to stock Prodigy's *Fat of the Land* album after American newspapers drew attention to the offensive title of its most notorious song, and the National Organisation of Women declared that it glorified domestic violence. Wal-Mart and Kmart are among the largest record retailers in America, but their decision is somewhat belated: the album is already a top seller.

MUSIC: The power of the Internet has forged an unlikely rapport between a Chinese radio station and that very English organisation, the Elgar Society. A classical music presenter on Nanjing Music Radio contacted the society by sending an e-mail to its Website, and asked for "a few classical CDs composed by Elgar", because they were difficult to buy in China. The society responded with 17 recordings of the composer's work, and are now attempting to establish links with other Chinese radio stations. A case of pomp rising to the challenge of circumstance, perhaps.

FILM: Emir Kusturica, the perennial darling of the European film festival circuit, is to direct one of Dennis Potter's last projects — a screenplay adaptation of *The White Hotel* that radically reinterprets D.M. Thomas's most celebrated novel. A complex chronicle of a woman's life and fantasies from 1900 to the start of the Second World War, the book has been translated into 20 languages since the Cornish author wrote it in 1981. Potter, who died in 1994, was commissioned to write a screen adaptation by the producers Robert Geisler and John Roberdeau in 1990.

Richard Cork takes a cool look at a disturbing, newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity

A holy mother knows best



Sebastiano's powerful *Madonna and Child*: the goldfinch clutched in the boy's hand is more than a mere childish distraction, as his mother knows

Glimpsed from a distance, Sebastiano del Piombo's painting seems the quintessence of tenderness. Executed on a tondo-shaped panel, the picture uses its circular format to emphasise a binding intimacy between mother and offspring. We appear to be spying, as if through an enlarged keyhole, at a private scene. The Virgin leans forward to handle the cloth swathing her child's chubby thighs.

Until recently the painting was in a private collection, little-known other than to Renaissance specialists. But now that the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has purchased it for £1.6 million, with the help of a lottery grant, the picture can be studied by anyone. And as we draw nearer, the more troubling Sebastiano's image becomes.

Sebastiano was still a young man when he painted this gravely affecting Madonna and Child. Probably executed soon after he left Venice for Rome in 1511, the panel marks a decisive moment in his development. Having worked closely with the shortlived Giorgione, he knew how to saturate his paintings with the Venetian palette at its most sensuous. But the move to Rome, at the invitation of the banker Agostino Chigi, brought about a profound change. Painting mythological frescoes at the Villa Farnesina, Sebastiano encountered Raphael's work in the same building. Above all, he must have been astounded by the awesome ceiling cycle Michelangelo was completing at the *Sistine Chapel*.

The two men became friends. Michelangelo provided Sebastiano with drawings to help him with three major commissions, most notably a monumental *Raising of Lazarus* now in the National Gallery. Sebastiano became a stern Roman classicist, and was rewarded in 1531 with the keepership of the papal seals or *piombatore* — a post which gave the artist his enduring nickname.

Even in a Rome work as early as the *Madonna and Child*, he is determined to cast aside beguiling Venetian lyricism. Both figures in the Fitzwilliam tondo are grander than anything he had produced before. Rather than relying on drawings supplied by Michelangelo, Sebastiano seems here to have taken his main stimulus from the Sistine Chapel itself. The child's twisted pose appears to be based on one of the angels supporting God in Michelangelo's magisterial fresco *The Creation of Adam*. As for Sebastiano's Virgin, she derives from the imposing figure of the Cumaean Sibyl on the Sistine ceiling. The wrinkled woman in Michelangelo's painting has become a youthful mother, and Sebastiano makes his Madonna slimmer than the sturdy, strangely muscular old prophetess. But this Virgin is still formidably well-built.

She inclines her head towards the child with impressive dignity. The Roman kerchief covering much of her hair dangles on one side, defining her profile with chiselled clarity. She does not smile, and her broad, lowered eyelid adds to the sense of gravitas. Although this Madonna lacks the seasoned wisdom of the Cumaean Sibyl, she possesses hieratic authority in abundance. Enough of her neck is visible to establish its strength. And the dark cloth of honour providing the Virgin's backdrop, just as it does in so many paintings by Sebastiano's master Giovanni Bellini, reinforces her sculptural solidity.

The edge of the cloth sends a powerful vertical line slicing down through the picture, threatening to sever the mother from her infant. But Sebastiano ensures that the Madonna's resolute arms stretch across this division. She is firmly linked with the child, and her right hand closes on his shoulder with unusual, clamp-like conviction.

More than anything else, those resolute fingers offer the key to understanding the picture's full significance. For Sebastiano juxtaposes their pallid, fiercely clenched angularity with the soft and fluffy glow of a goldfinch. The Christ child holds the bird in his plump fist. He has clearly been playing with it, and the distraction accounts for his extravagantly twisted pose. The Virgin's clasping hand causes his head to swivel back in her direction. He must have sensed the persistence of his mother's protective gesture, and gazes up at her with an air of puzzlement.

Why does she seek to divert him from the bird? His involvement with the pet seems harmless, and Sebastiano places it against a landscape enchanting enough to associate the goldfinch with unalloyed delight. There, in a setting where sunlight tinges the walls of a hilltop town and makes a high cloud blaze with whiteness, Sebastiano allows himself to recall his past. It is an act of homage to his origins, and proves that he could still paint with all his former Venetian charm.

But the appeal of the countryside seems fugitive compared with the heavy, assertive bulk of mother and offspring. Their convoluted interplay gives the painting its central tension, and the Virgin has good reason to wrest her child's attention away from the bird. She knows, as well as the patron who commissioned this painting, that the goldfinch, widely favoured as a pet in 16th-century Italy, was also a symbol of Christ's passion and death. When Michelangelo carved the marble tondo now owned by the Royal Academy, he made the Christ child recoil in alarm from the goldfinch offered by John the Baptist. Sebastiano's infant is not frightened by his bird, but the Madonna appreciates its larger meaning only too well.

This is a mother who, alerted by the goldfinch, wants to be reunited with her son. She tries to prevent him moving impulsively away, beyond the safety of her grasp. The true extent of the Virgin's determination is disclosed by her attempt to wrap him in the drape she herself is wearing. The brilliant yellow cloth runs like an umbilical cord between Madonna and infant, and signifies the fervency of her wish never to let him go.

Ultimately, though, they both know how impossible that desire really is. The boy, fast growing beyond babyhood, occupies his own space separate from the Virgin. He clutches the goldfinch with possessive resolve, and his mother gazes down at him with a hint of the mournfulness which will overwhelm her when Christ's lifeless body is lowered from the cross.

Tragedy here is withheld by the stubborn assertion of maternal will. But the boy responds to her attempted embrace with reluctance, and already seems oppressed by a premonition of the suffering to come.

● *Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (01223 332900), then at the Royal Academy's* Art Treasures of England *exhibition from Jan 22*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE standing of **Glyn Philpot** (1884-1937) remains more enigmatic than that of any other major 20th-century British painter. This may have something to do with his private life: he was openly homosexual — or as openly as anyone was in those days. But more to the point, he underwent a spectacular change of style in mid-career: in 1930 he suddenly "went Picasso", as a newspaper of the day put it. Up to then he had been a fairly conservative, respectable painter with considerable success. But in his late forties he threw it all aside, adopting instead a spare, comparatively modern style, influenced primarily by Rose period Picasso and lining him up with that brand of Parisian chic we would now call Deco. He was accused of cynicism and opportunism and lost many of his old admirers without living long enough to establish a solid new reputation. The show at the Fine Art Society is heavily weighted towards the last period, much of it coming from the collection of his niece, Gabrielle Cross, who died recently. It includes fine portraits, among them famous images of Vivian Forbes and of Jules Zaire, a black Paris barman. There are also some of his magical Symbolist fantasies, such as *Saint Sebastian* and *Fugue*, both of 1932, and some highly evocative North African scenes. There seems no doubt that his last period was far and away his finest. High time to forget the kerfuffle these paintings caused and accept them gratefully for just what they are.

Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171 629 5116). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Jan 16

■ SINCE the circus contains so many glittering encounters between illusion and reality, glamour and squalor, pleasure and pain, it is hardly surprising that so many artists have been drawn to it. In 1937 **Morris Kestelman** was commissioned to prepare colour lithographic illustrations for a book on the circus in England. The advent of the war meant the book never appeared, and the lithographs are only now published. To celebrate the occasion, and Kestelman's 92nd birthday, the Boundary Gallery presents a seasonable show of Kestelman on the circus, contrasted with three other artists, American (Jacqueline Morreau), British (Gillian Kogan) and Georgian (Jacob Jugashvili). The variety of response is astonishing.

Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126). Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, reopens Jan 7, until Jan 17

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

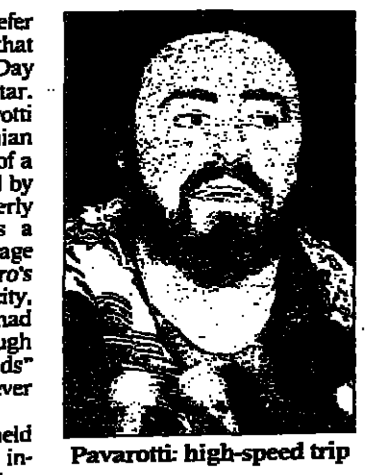
MUSIC: Hettie Judah joins Pavarotti, Bono and pals as they touch down in Bosnia to open the War Child charity's music centre. Plus concert reviews

Pipe up for peace

Society ladies may prefer New York, but for that last pre-Christmas Day trip, musicians favour Mostar. This week Luciano Pavarotti was delivered on to Bosnian soil through the back end of a vast RAF Chinook, flanked by Mostar's black and formerly Serb-sodden hills. It was a suitably surreal piece of stage direction for the maestro's visit: despite all the publicity, money and music that he had put into the country through his "Pavarotti and Friends" concerts, this was his first ever sniff of Bosnian air.

While he may have withheld his physical presence, his influence has secured the development of one of the boldest arts projects on the route to Bosnian regeneration. The construction of War Child's "Pavarotti Music Centre" in divided, cinerary Mostar is an expression not simply of hope for the future of Bosnia's children, but of almost crazy faith in the future of the city.

Mostar is still strongly divided along Bosnian Muslim and Croat lines. Car bombs have gone off as recently as September, and day-to-day tensions still run high. Even Pavarotti's co-sponsor, U2 frontman Bono, admits that the centre will be a tempting target should the Croats restart their bomb attacks. Built behind the façade of a shelled orphanage in Muslim East Mostar, the building is bright, modern and prominently positioned. It was hinted that Pavarotti's obviously Italian, and hence Catholic, name was attached to the building to defer a Catholic Croat offensive. There are few who would invest in a major capital project in a time of such uncertain peace, and it is to War Child's and Pavarotti's great credit that they were brave enough to do so.



Pavarotti: high-speed trip

In a four-hour visit there is room for little more than symbolic gestures: this trip was potent with them. Having broken his oath that he would never fly in a helicopter (he later told me that it was something "I would not do for a million dollars, but I'd do it for these children"), Pavarotti hurtled through the city at uncharacteristic speed. He had an impressive entourage: Bono, Brian Eno, Bianca Jagger, Sir Tom Stoppard and a batch of Italian musical stars came to express solidarity. For one evening at least, their gesture of peace was reciprocated. The mayors of east and west were seen together for the first time, and the visitors were greeted in the devastated Musala Square, which at the height of the conflict received an estimated 3,000 shells a day, by a choir of children from both sides of the city waiting peacefully in the rain.

"When you are happy you sing in the shower," Pavarotti told me. It is this absent joy that the project is trying to reintroduce into the lives of Bosnia's traumatised children. Conceived as a world-leading centre for experimental music therapy, it will build on the work of two British charities, War Child and the Serious Road Trip, during the conflict. The centre is already claiming impressive results: children who could not speak have found a voice. Beyond individual therapy, it is hoped that making music together will unite children.

It is still too early to bathe in idealism. The children's concert for Pavarotti was crawling with security men and plain-clothed police, each side watching the other closely. Even the ridiculous brevity of the musicians' visit was dictated by a disagreement between the rival mayors who refused to let a British plane into the city's airport.

"This war will produce music of real anger," Bono told me. "Any city has a right to make noise to exorcise what they've been through." It seems that Mostar has got to make some serious noise before we hear the melody.

Festive gifts

Polyphony/ Canzona/Layton
St John's

A BUSY weekend for Stephen Layton's vocal ensemble Polyphony saw them give Handel's Messiah on Saturday and half of Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Sunday, both at St John's, Smith Square. They were assisted in Sunday's programme by the early music group Canzona (director Theresa Caudle) which, as well as accompanying the first three parts of the Bach, filled out the programme with Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 8 in G minor, the "Christmas Concerto".

The core of Canzona is small but flexible — players are added for larger works such as the Bach — and a sense of that individual response came across in the Corelli. Just as the members of a string quartet would interact, so Canzona's instrumentalists breathed together in the Adagio sections and struck sparks off each other in the Allegros.

Taking over the direction for the Christmas Oratorio, Stephen Layton adopted similarly judicious tempi. The *Sinfonia* introducing Part 2, another pastoral movement, had a perfectly judged, lilting dotted rhythm, pushing gently forward all the time. The big choral movements, such as those opening Parts 1 and 3, had buoyancy as well as an appropriately celebratory air, while the chorales were treated with imaginative variety.

Catherine Bott made the most of the relatively minor soprano role, duetting stylishly with the bass, Michael George, in *Lord, Thy Mercy*. George himself has one of the noblest voices in the early music business, and even if there were worrying signs of it spreading unduly, he delivered his numbers with customary aplomb. Catherine Wyn-Rogers was a fine contralto soloist in *Slumber Beloved* while, in the tenor role, James Gilchrist was fresh of voice and animated of line.

BARRY MILLINGTON

High, wide and handsome

Philharmonia/ Levine
Albert Hall

MAHLER'S Eighth Symphony, the so-called *Symphony of a Thousand*, is monumental, extravagant and bombastic, a work perfectly suited to the conducting style of James Levine. In the last of his three concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra the American maestro did not disappoint, but he also sprung some pleasant surprises in a taut performance free of cloying emotionalism.

At the opening, Levine took the score's "impetuoso" marking to heart, and the music surged along excitingly. Most impressive of all was the tight ensemble between the no fewer than five choruses, three children's choirs and orchestra. Banked up high above the platform, the well-drilled singers attacked every phrase as one, even when Levine was less than prodigious with his cues. Both visually and aurally this was an Albert Hall spectacular, with the stage bursting at the seams and the magnificent tuttis underpinned by the unmistakable sound of the organ.

There were a few moments, especially in the first movement, where Levine seemed to be marking time. At such points it was tempting to question Mahler's grandiose vision in combining the two mystical texts — the first a medieval prayer, the second the closing scene from Goethe's *Faust* — but strong vocal performances soon drew the ear back in.

From the formidable line-up of singers, all regular Levine collaborators, two stood out all evening: the imposing, golden-toned mezzo of Michelle DeYoung and the incisive tenor of Johan Botha. Jane Eaglen's top notes were not always spot-on and her voice may have lost its shine, but Deborah Voigt compensated with her radiant soprano.

Stepping in at short notice, Jan-Hendrik Rootering made his mark as Pater Profundis in the second movement. Heidi Grant Murphy sang the Mater Gloriosa's brief lines with purity, and Birgitta Svenden and Eike Wilm Schulte maintained the level of this high-class octet.

The orchestral playing was especially warm in the second movement. Levine emphasised the chamber music-like qualities of the writing in its successive episodes, always making them as cohesive and unsentimental as possible. Best of all was the hushed tone with which the massive chorus began the closing hymn, and the masterfully controlled build-up to the work's earth-shattering end.

JOHN ALLISON

Felicitous and animated

Lott/Murray
Wigmore Hall

IF FIORDILIGI and Dorabella had been Lieder singers... well, they would have been snapped up by the Songmakers' Almanac which, in its 21st birthday year, turned back the pages for a repeat performance of that gloriously speculative evening of witty homage to Mozart and to the female voice.

Graham Johnson has suggested that this, one of his most virtuoso feats of programming, bears a similar relationship to *Così fan tutte* as Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* does to *Hamlet*. That gives you some idea. But it gives only a hint of the web of verbal and musical cross-reference, the tenderness and the outrageousness with which Johnson matches Mozart and his librettist da Ponte in a musical pattern of human joy, pain, expectation, deceit and conceit.

Three of the founder members of the Songmakers' Almanac were on hand for the occasion, and the presence of Felicity Lott, Ann Murray and Richard Jackson made this revival seem even more authentic than the original "staging" in July 1983 which did not, as it happens, feature these singers at all. Lott and Murray are such an inexhaustibly accomplished double-act that it was difficult to believe that there could ever be such devoted sisters in art, be they pouting at each other during some exquisite Schubertian singing exercises, or cooing through sisterly duets by Wolf, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schumann.

Their own vocal virtuosity was answered by Johnson's and Jackson's respective skills in literary detection, selection and recitation. From Austen and Kipling to Dorothy Parker, Samuel Johnson and D.H. Lawrence they ranged. And Jackson's declamation of Don Alfonso's laconic lines from *Così* found their match in the most deft and daring musical connections in the fingers of Johnson.

HILARY FINCH

Check out those employee records

By Rodney Hobson

EMPLOYEE records should be spring cleaned when firms reopen after the Christmas break because of impending changes in the law, the Institute of Personnel and Development says.

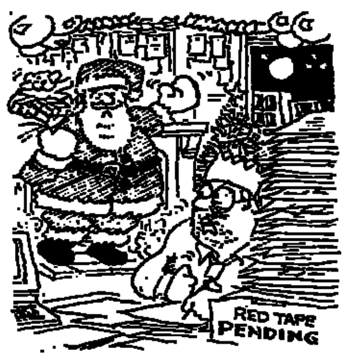
The publication of the Data Protection Bill is scheduled to take place in January. It will extend the right of employees to have access to written as well as computerised records.

Angela Edward, *the institute's* policy adviser, says: "Employees will have the right to know what information employers keep on them, how it is used and its relevance to their pay, promotion and prospects."

She says there could be serious financial implications for employers found keeping inaccurate information and advises companies to check that all data is accurate, relevant and valid. The main danger is with information gathered informally, which is more likely to be inaccurate, as it is rarely checked and verified in the same way as formal records.

Arguing that properly processed data is good for businesss as well as for the employer, she says: "Employers who use out-of-date or inaccurate information to make decisions about training, promotion or career development risk making expensive mistakes. Employers should not keep anything that they may not be able to verify or justify. If you don't want your employee to see it, then you shouldn't keep it."

However, she cautions employers against allowing people to see data that identifies a third party.



"Don't talk to me about having to work Christmas Day!"

Christmas starts early for small businesses

Widget Finn on how festive firms spread the work through the year

Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville with some of the handmade crackers that can be recycled every year

For a small enterprise, Christmas starts early. Chantal Tunnacliffe is already planning and selling her card designs *for the* 1998 *season*. About 95 per cent of her business is Christmas-focused and half the annual turnover is generated from September to December. This year's Christmas trade finished for her on *December 15. Next month she will* be planning marketing for the next festive season and discussing new lines with her commercial customers.

Five years ago Mrs Tunnacliffe heard about Emmaus, an international charity for homeless people, and wanted to help to raise money for her local branch in Cambridge. She offered some artwork which proved highly popular as Christmas cards, and that modest beginning turned her from a self-taught amateur artist into a professional painter and businesswoman.

"The success of the cards for *Emmaus made me think that there* could be a wider market for my designs," says Mrs Tunnacliffe. "So I did a very optimistic intitial print run of 5,000 of each of six designs."

Her optimism was justified and the designs — themed around Russian churches — attracted a lot of interest at the Birmingham Spring Gift Fair. There she made her first contacts with other charities and shops, and now supplies cards to several charities including *SOS Children's Villages*, the National Eczema Society, the Dyslexia Association and the Pasteur Institute in Paris. She has over a hundred designs in production which are sold to wholesale cus*tomers in France, Switzerland*, Russia and Canada.

Mrs Tunnacliffe handles all the print-buying herself so she can oversee the process. "It's time-consuming, but it means that I get better financial return than simply selling on the designs." That first tentative print run has been well eclipsed. Save the Children Fund ordered 150,000 cards of one design *this year*, while Emmaus, her first customer, has sold more than 20,000 Tunnacliffe cards this season. Charity cards sell for about 8p each, but Mrs Tunnacliffe's creations can run to more than £1 each. Turnover in 1997 reached £50,000.

National gift fairs are Mrs Tunnacliffe's main market, which means that from early spring she is preparing the Christmas orders. She also takes a stand at the *Country Living* Christmas fair in November.

"This year's fair was the first where I did more than break even, because I was selling artwork and prints as well as cards" she says. "*Cards are so inexpensive that it's* impossible to make money selling direct to the public but it's very valuable to talk to customers. I learn which designs are popular and why."

This market research *has* made Mrs Tunnacliffe change the colour schemes of her cards from cool blues and greens to warmer tones. Her current bestselling cards feature camels on the Flight into Egypt. "People like to be reminded of the summer, and heat and foreign holidays," she explains.

Christmas for Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville starts on January 9 — when they plan their schedule of gift fairs and work out how much stock will be needed. Their business, selling reusable crackers, can justifiably claim to be as green as a bunch of holly. "Crackers are an expensive item that are bought by every household in the country — and then thrown away," explains Mrs Hawkins. "We produce handmade crackers in beautiful materials that *can easily be reassembled* and recycled each year."

The Cracker Maker started three years ago, selling at local charity fairs, but the partners soon decided that London was their main market. *Now they sell at national craft* fairs and do mail-order sales generated through the considerable publicity they have attracted through magazine editorials. The partners are looking at extending the selling season with dried flower arrangements and customised crackers for golden weddings and special occasions, but Christmas trading dominates half of the year.

"There's a constant battle to keep up with demand at this time of year," says Angela Hawkins. "Apart from employing students in the summer to build up cracker stocks, it's just the two of us working all hours — which, of course, doesn't come into our pricing structure."

Mrs Hawkins reckons she will be sending out orders "right up until Christmas Eve".

Meanwhile Chantal Tunnacliffe avoided this final week's frenetic countdown to Christmas. Last orders completed, she escaped abroad to paint and get inspiration for the cards we will be sending in 1998.

Chantal Tunnacliffe: phone 01223 247427
The Cracker Maker: phone 01386 860646

Owner managers in UK optimistic about prospects

By Rodney Hobson

OWNER MANAGERS across the European Union have become more optimistic about business prospects for 1998, after two years of declining expectations.

British owner managers lead the way in the optimism stakes while Germany trails badly, according to the sixth annual survey by Grant Thorton, the accountant and business adviser.

Andrew Godfrey, head of growth and development services, said: "The survey shows the expectations of UK firms to be well above the EU average on turnover, employment and, particularly, profitability, which is a good indicator of future performance."

Nearly half of British companies expect to expand their workforce in the next 12 months and three quarters expect turnover to rise.

German firms are not as pessimistic as in previous years but they remain the least optimistic, with many continuing to predict a fall in profitability and employment. French businesses, which had gloomy expectations for 1997, are looking forward to a brighter year.

On the whole, the optimism is not based on hopes of rising prices. In France and Germany companies believe they will have to cut selling prices.

Mr Godfrey says: "We are witnessing some very positive trends among the UK small to medium enterprises, with increased investment in training, employment and property. On the downside, there is still a gap between the UK and Europe on selling prices, which could lead to competitive problems.

"The picture on exports is slightly different. This is one area where the survey does not show greater optimism. Across the EU as a whole, export expectations for 1998 are exactly the same as for 1997 and have not recovered to 1995 levels. In some countries, including the UK, export expectations have continued to slide."

Santa is proving increasingly popular with the business world, the Institute of Trade Mark Agents says. The word Santa has been registered as a trade mark by seven different companies to cover items including toiletries, greetings cards, ornaments, toys for animals and plum puddings. Young Santa, Son of Santa, Santa's Son, Santa Babes, Santa's Big Day, Santa Claws and Santa Claus are already registered as trade marks. Santa and Ruby, Santa's Footprints and Santa's Best are all pending registration.

☐ Banks and financial service companies have the most festive spirit, the Institute of Personnel and Development says. Seven out of ten companies in the sector held Christmas parties, while fewer than one in ten in the construction industry have a get-together at work. In general, the institute says, the smaller the company, the less likely it is to hold an office party.

☐ The annual conference of the Federation of Small Businesses in March will be addressed by *William Hague*, the Leader of the Opposition. Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, and Padraig Flynn, the European Commissioner *for Employment* and Social Affairs.

☐ A free guide for owner managers thinking of selling their businesses has been produced by Deloitte & Touche, the chartered accountant. Copies can be obtained from Rachel Gristock on 0171-303 5040.

☐ The Human Resource Development Week Exhibition is moving to Olympia. The 1998 event, the twelfth, will open on March 31. The Institute of Personnel and Development organises the three-day event.

☐ Venture Capital Report has produced its 1998 *Guide to Private Equity and Venture Capital in the UK and Europe*. Published by Pitman Publishing, the report costs £195.

☐ Lending by Barclays Bank through the Small Firms Training Loans Scheme has topped £1 million.

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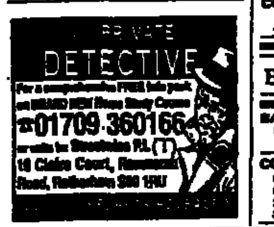

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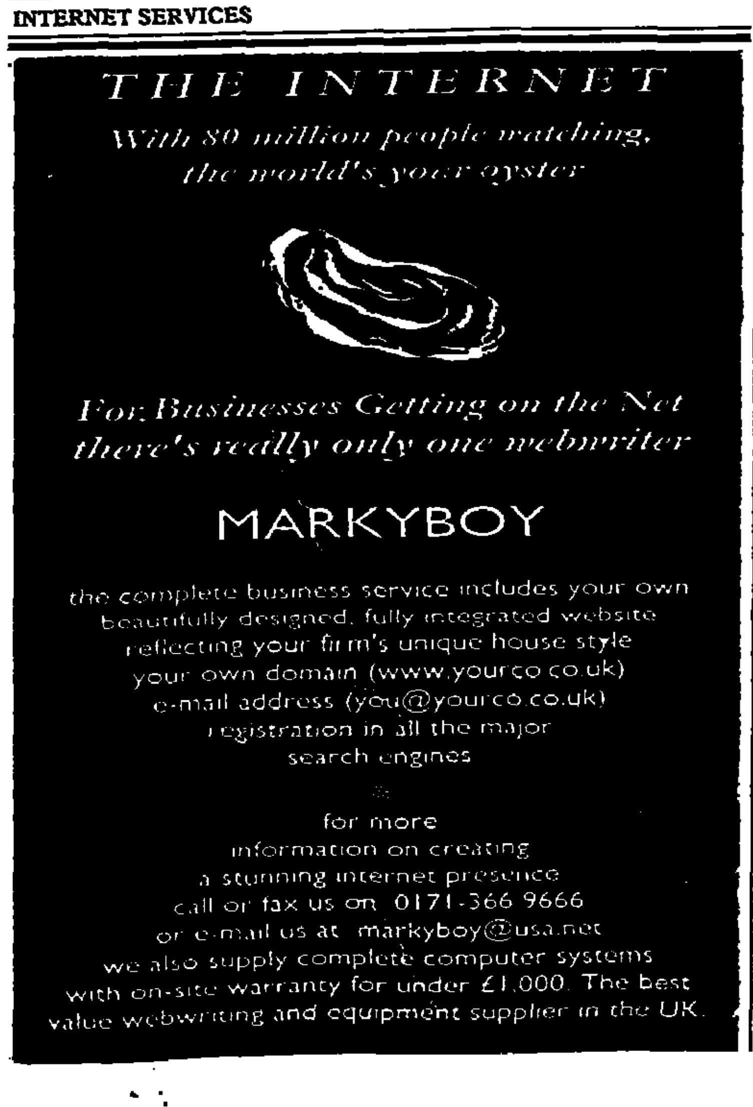

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

BRITISH BENEFIT *Friendly* SOCIETY LIMITED
Notice of Special General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special General Meeting of the Society will be held on 17 January *1998* at the Moat House Hotel, Chester at 2pm for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing the following resolutions:

Resolution 1
THAT the Memorandum and Rules contained in the document initialled by the Secretary and available for inspection at the Society's Registered Office be approved and adopted as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Memorandum and Rules of the Society.

Resolution 2
TO change the name of the Society to British Benefits friendly Society Limited.

Resolution 3
CONDITIONAL upon the passing of Resolution 1 above, and the registration of the Memorandum and Rules referred to therein as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society, to appoint Mr Keith Ronald Baylis as a member of the Committee of Management of the Society.

Resolution 4
CONDITIONAL upon the passing of resolution 1 above, and the registration of the Memorandum and Rules referred to therein as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society to appoint Mr James Gilchrist as a member of the Committee of Management of the Society.

Resolution 5
CONDITIONAL upon the passing of resolution 1 above, and the registration of the Memorandum and Rules referred to therein as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society, to appoint Mr David Spencer Parmee as a member of the Committee of Management of the Society.

Resolution 6
CONDITIONAL upon the passing of resolution 1 above, and the registration of the Memorandum and Rules referred to therein as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society, to appoint Mr Philip Ian Price as a member of the Committee of Management of the Society.

Resolution 7
CONDITIONAL upon the passing of resolution 1 above, and the registration of the Memorandum and Rules referred to therein as the Memorandum and Rules of the Society to appoint Mr John Peter Warren as a member of the Committee of Management of the Society.

Dated 15 December 1997
Registered Office:
No 1 Trevor Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK40 2AR.
By Order of the Committee
M S Harding, Secretary

No. 005180 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF DWYER ESTATES plc
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division), Companies Court, dated 15th December 1997, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £26,578,218.25 to £16,843,477.25 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 19th December 1997.

Dated this 23rd day of December 1997
Berwin Leighton
Adelaide House
London Bridge
London EC4R 9HA
Telephone 0171 623 3144
Fax 0171 623 4416
Ref: JOWK/D338/497
Solicitors for the above-named Company

WESTMIN TALC (U.K.) LIMITED
(Registered in England No 1086118)
Proposed payment out of capital pursuant to Section 171 of the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act") that:-

(a) Westmin Talc (U.K.) Limited (the Company) has by a Special Resolution passed on 18 December 1997 approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring 569,271 Ordinary Shares of £1 each in its own share capital.

(b) the permissible capital payment (as defined in Section 171 of the Act) for such share is £8,100,000

(c) the statutory declarations of the Company's directors and the report of the Company's auditors required by Section 173 of the Act in respect of such payment out of capital are available for inspection by any member or creditor of the Company at the Company's registered office at One Silk Street, London EC2Y 8HQ during business hours on any day (except a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday) up to and including 22 January 1998; and

(d) any creditor of the Company may at any time up to and including 22 January apply to the High Court of Justice under Section 176 of the act for an order prohibiting such payment out of capital.

18 December 1997
R J Ashmore
For Hackwood Secretaries Limited
Secretary
Registered Office: One Silk Street LONDON EC2Y 8HQ

Notice of Resolution for Payment out of Capital
ABB FLEXIBLE AUTOMATION LIMITED

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:-

1. the above named Company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of purchasing its own shares.
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £999,693.00;
3. the date of the Resolution approving the payment out of capital is 19th December 1997.
4. the statutory Declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office (Auriga House, Precedent Drive, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK13 8PQ);
5. any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the Resolution approving the payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.

Dated this 19th day of December 1997
N Rolls
Company Secretary

WAYMANS (COPPINGFORD) LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 6 January 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF not later than 12 noon on 5 January 1998. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names of addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

Dated this 15th DAY of DECEMBER 1997
By Order of the Board
John MacEachin, Director

In the matter of
F1 Retail Holdings Plc
F1 Stores Limited
F1 Retail Developments Limited
F1 Direct Limited
and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above companies will be held pursuant to section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 at KPMG, Norfolk House, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2HA, On 8 January 1998 at 11.00am for the purpose of receiving the report of the administrative receivers and, if thought fit, appointing a creditors' committee. A creditor will be entitled to vote only if a written statement of claim is submitted to me at KPMG, Aquis Court, 31 Fishpool Street, St Albans, AL3 4RF by 12 noon on 7 January 1998 and if the claim is admitted for voting purposes. Any proxies that are intended to be used must be submitted to me before the meeting. A creditor whose claim is wholly secured is not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

Date 18 December 1997
Tony Thompson
Joint Administrative Receiver

Robe UK Limited
IN LIQUIDATION
RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Mason of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Robe UK Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on Monday, 15 December 1997.

DATED this Monday, 15 December 1997
David John Mason, Liquidator

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Source: MMS September 1997

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LAW

● NEXT WEEK: DAVID PANNICK REVIEWS THE YEAR

Why are lawyers so disliked? Jim Carrey in the Hollywood comedy *Liar, Liar*, plays up to the popular image as the lawyer/liar of the title

Everyone loathes a lawyer

Making the legal profession more popular could prove daunting for Labour, says **Fiona Bawdon**

At the end of his *apocalyptic* speech to the Law Society conference in October, Lord Irvine of Lairg noted that the legal profession had fallen lower and lower in public estimation in recent years. One of his aims as Lord Chancellor was to see lawyers being held in the same affection as nurses. His "new regime" — of replacing legal aid with conditional fees in all civil money claims — "should go a long way to heighten the public standing of lawyers".

Loathing and suspicion of lawyers has a long pedigree. In 321 BC, Plato wrote that a lawyer's "soul is small and unrighteous ... from the first he has practised deception and retaliation and become stunted and warped". Such sentiments would fit nicely into a *Daily Mail* leader.

Other notables who have put the boot into lawyers include (in no particular order) Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Johnson, Samuel Butler, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Jefferson, John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Oscar Wilde and Dan Quayle.

For all his fine words, Lord Irvine and his officials are not above tapping into popular dislike of lawyers when it suits them. When Downing Street officials leaked the contents of *Lord Irvine's speech*, presumably to ensure a favourable reception, the proposals were presented as a much-needed brake on runaway lawyers. While the broadsheets were more sceptical (pointing out that the cuts might also clobber the poor), the tabloids found the chance to engage in lawyer-bashing too good to miss. *The Sun*'s headline ran: "Curb on lawyers' legal aid rip-off". *The Express* wrote of plans to "halt the legal aid gravy train for lawyers" and the *Daily Mail* leader concluded: "Inevitably, the legal profession is already squealing at Lord Irvine's initiative. For that reason alone, he deserves to succeed."

These papers knew their coverage would strike a chord with their readers, but just why are lawyers so unpopular? Marcel Berlins, a writer and broadcaster, says it is partly because of the circumstances in which most people go to see them. "On the whole, they are there when you are in trouble of some kind. They are seen as parasites feeding off other people's disasters." He adds that much of the opprobrium is self-inflicted. "People tend to come out of studying the law more pompous than when they went in," he says. "I have seen friends of mine go in quite normal people and come out making *Latin quips and terrible laboured jokes*. They develop a bedside manner of superiority and arrogance."

> People feel able to demonise them as they wish

A bedside manner that can continue even when they are off duty. A friend's family holiday was blighted by the constant braying of a barrister, holding forth over dinner that he did not want to be made a judge just yet because he could not live on less than the £250,000 he was earning. "He stopped talking to me when he found out I was only a graphic designer," he recalls.

Roger *Smith, director of the* Legal Action Group, however, insists that dislike of lawyers here is as nothing compared with the United States. "I don't think there is a visceral hatred of lawyers in this country," he says. The attitude of the British is more ambivalent. "Lawyers are seen as boring but basically trustworthy. If the Government is in a hole, it will appoint a lawyer to sort it out," he says, citing the Scott and Nolan reports.

Mr Smith fears that the extension of conditional fees, far from improving their standing — as Lord Irvine claims — will create a climate more akin to that in America.

Mr Smith explains: "Lawyers will be seen as being paid above what is reasonable. What starts off as an attack on lawyers will end up as an *attack on the integrity of the* justice system."

Greater use of conditional fees is predicted to lead to more advertising by lawyers — and, in America, there is evidence that the more lawyers advertise, the more they are distrusted. A study in Iowa found that after lawyers began advertising on TV, the proportion of people who thought they were honourable fell from 65 per cent to 14 per cent.

Yet leaving aside the impact of advertising, many of the criticisms now levied at lawyers could apply equally to other professions, which — with the exception of estate agents and journalists — are not generally disliked.

In a 1995 Law Society study of people's attitudes towards different professions, doctors came top across all categories. Yet doctors can be just as arrogant (ask any nurse) and use just as much jargon (ask any patient).

They are also open to accusations of treating clients/patients as little more than money-making opportunities. The headline of one article in the medical magazine *Financial Pulse* earlier this year was: "Travel vaccines — broaden your earnings. Dr Mike Townsend explains how GPs can take advantage of patients' trips to exotic destinations." The same issue also gave advice on how to boost vaccination levels and so trigger payments for meeting targets. ("As a last resort, it might even be worth giving *the immunisation at home if it* means hitting the target" — surely this is ambulance-chasing by another name? "This practice could generate up to £3,700 from an effective annual influenza vaccination campaign.") Imagine the field day the tabloids would have if lawyers were writing in such terms.

One legal aid lawyer smarts at being deemed a "fat cat", while his brother, a GP, earning broadly the same, is a latter-day saint. Doctors, he says, are just as capable of being unscrupulous as lawyers are popularly believed to be. A doctors' practice near his brother's — which was also the only local dispensary — *whipped up a campaign* among local people to stop a rival pharmacy opening in the area — to no obvious benefit to anyone but the doctors and their wallets.

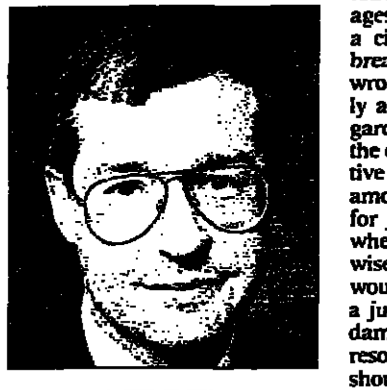
Mr Smith has a theory about why the questionable activities of doctors are generally ignored, while those of lawyers are exaggerated. "Unless you're a serial bigamist or a major criminal, the chances are that you may never see a lawyer. People feel able to demonise them, to play with their image — but they don't dare with doctors because they know they'll need them at some point," he says.

So, as Labour is being criticised for reneging on some election pledges, it also seems likely to fail in its attempts to make lawyers loveable.

Right way to deter civil wrongdoers

When courts award damages, the aim is usually to compensate the victim's loss. But this is not always so. Sometimes damages are awarded to punish the wrongdoer. These are known as "punitive" (or "exemplary") damages. Last week the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, published a report and draft Bill for the reform of the law on punitive damages. The law in this area badly needs to be rationalised and modernised. As one senior judge has put it, the present law "cries aloud for parliamentary intervention". Almost everyone who responded to our consultation paper agreed.

There are arbitrary and illogical restrictions on when punitive damages may be awarded. The leading case of *Rookes v Barnard* in 1964 stated that unless expressly authorised by statute, punitive damages can be awarded in only two categories of case. One is where there has been oppressive, *arbitrary or unconstitutional* wrongdoing by a servant of the Government; and the other is where the wrongdoer has committed the wrong cynically calculating that it would be profitable to do so.



ANDREW BURROWS

In 1993, the Court of Appeal in the Camelford water case added a further peculiar requirement: even if a case falls within the above two categories, punitive damages can be awarded only if they had been awarded for that particular wrong before 1964 (that is, before *Rookes v Barnard* was decided). This means that wrongs developed since 1964 (such as sex or *race discrimination) cannot trigger an* award of punitive damages; and wrongs recognised before 1964 cannot either, if one cannot trace a case (perhaps because of the accidents of law reporting) in which punitive damages were awarded for that wrong before 1964.

Nor can the two categories be rationally defended. Why should a private store detective who maliciously falsely "arrests" an alleged shoplifter be immune from punitive damages, when a police officer, who does exactly the same, is not? Why should it make all the difference, as regards the availability of punitive damages, whether or not a person who physically attacks another was paid to do so, or whether an author libels a person for profit rather than simply out of malice?

But though it is widely accepted that reform is needed, responses to our consultation paper revealed very different views as to the path reform should take. One view is that rationalisation demands the abolition of punitive damages, leaving punishment as the sole preserve of the criminal law.

The other main view, and the one we on the commission ultimately found persuasive, is to preserve punitive damages while putting them on a clear, principled and tightly controlled, basis. Consultees impressed on us that to remove punitive damages would be to take away, for no good reason, a weapon in the judicial armoury that can be useful in fighting a wide range of outrageous wrongful conduct, including fraud, abuse of police power, infringement of health and safety standards, environmental pollution, and sex and race discrimination.

The Law Commission report therefore recommends to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, a detailed statutory scheme to put punitive damages on a clear, principled and tightly controlled footing, in which judges would make the awards, not juries as now.

The three central elements of that scheme follow: that punitive damages would be available for a civil wrong (other than breach of contract) if the wrongdoer has deliberately and outrageously disregarded the victim's rights; the decision to award punitive damages, and their amount, would be matters for judges to decide; even where a civil trial is otherwise by jury, these matters would never be decided by a jury; and third, punitive damages would be a "last resort" remedy, which should not be awarded where another available remedy is adequate punishment and should not usually be awarded where the wrongdoer has been convicted of a criminal offence for the same conduct. We also *recommend the replacement of some outdated* technical rules. For example, we suggest a diametrically opposite approach to the present law on the survival of claims to punitive damages, so that the claim would survive in favour of a deceased victim's estate, but would not survive against a deceased wrongdoer's estate.

The commission believes that these reforms, if implemented by Parliament, would enable the civil justice system to play a proper role, alongside the criminal law, in punishing and deterring serious wrongdoing. At the same time, they would ensure that there is no risk of English law treading the American path of easily available, and exorbitant, punitive awards.

● *Professor Burrows is a Law Commissioner.* Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutionary Damages, *Law Commission Report No 247, is published by the Stationery Office (£18.50). The text of the report is available on the Internet at the commission's Website:*

http://www.gtnet.gov.uk/lawcomm/homepage.htm

INNS AND OUTS

From bad to worse

AS IF the Government was not getting enough flak over benefits reform, the Council on Tribunals — chaired by Lord Archer of Sandwell, Solicitor-General in the last Labour Government — has attacked plans to shake up the benefits appeals system.

In its annual report, the council says that the new Social Security Bill, which will mean that benefits appeals will be heard by a single person and not a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, could mean a reversion to the old "unsatisfactory" system.

The new appeals body will be made up of a panel of experts. "As a result," the council says, "some appeals may in future be decided by tribunals constituted as only one person, not necessarily with legal training." The council is strongly critical of the plans, which remove from appellants the right to a hearing before a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, all of whom "bring a wealth of expertise and experience ... The effect of the other reforms in the Bill, aimed at removing errors and delays in benefits decisions, should be assessed before other changes are contemplated."

Out of court

PEOPLE with disputes before the Court of Appeal are being encouraged to resolve them outside court under a pilot scheme launched by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, who heads the Court of Appeal's Civil Division, wants people to try to settle disputes by mediation rather than in a Court of Appeal hearing. In his *Review of the Legal Year, 1996-97* for the Court of Appeal's Civil Division, Lord Woolf says: "I am optimistic that alternative dispute resolution has a role to play in helping parties and the court to find ways of resolving cases without a hearing before the Court of Appeal."

Such out-of-court dispute resolution could provide a "cheaper, quicker and more satisfactory solution for the parties than a court hearing".

Two views

THE publication by the Law Society last week of its blueprint for a self-financing legal aid fund based on the "no win, no fee" principle has highlighted differences in the approaches of the profession's two branches towards the Government's reform plans.

The Bar Council is continuing to press for a contingency legal aid fund which, it says, would render unnecessary proposals to replace legal aid with conditional fees for most money claims.

The Law Society has made a conscious effort to be more accommodating. *It has* calculated that it is simply unrealistic to expect the Government to back down completely and is trying to persuade the Government that the Legal Aid Board — not lawyers — should stump up the conditional-fees insurance premiums for people who cannot afford them.

SCRIVENOR

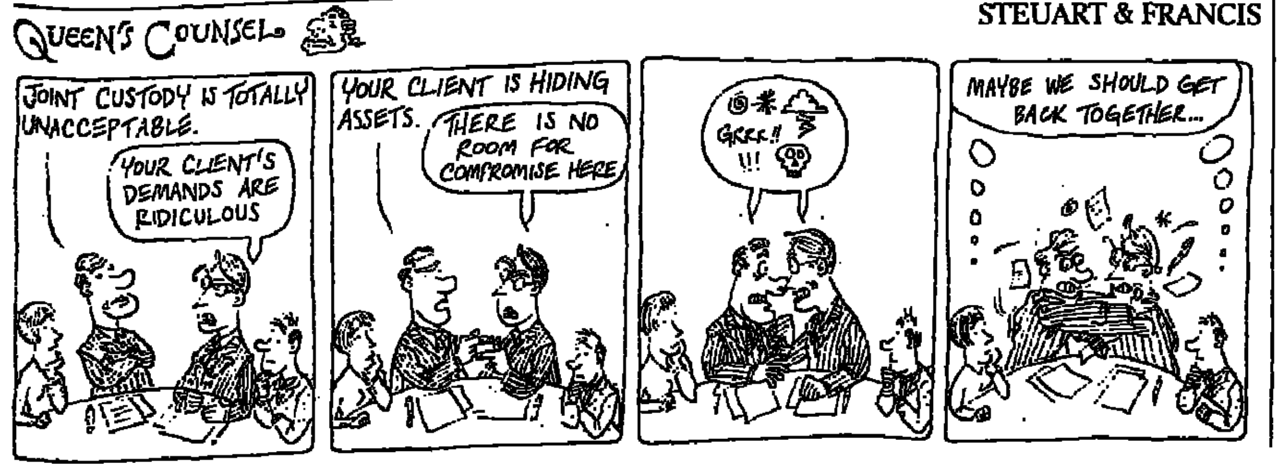
Freedom for Corinne

Lambey: off Death Row

CORINNE LAMBEY, 19, has just been acquitted of murder and released from Death Row in Belize, after the efforts of Freedom Now. She is the third young prisoner released this year after help by the group, which has campaigned for ten years to help Britons facing miscarriages of justice abroad, particularly those on Death Row.

The "group" in fact comprises Andrew McCooey, a Kent solicitor, with help from Edward Fitzgerald, QC. The work is all *pro bono publico*. Now the group is seeking charitable status.

STEUART & FRANCIS



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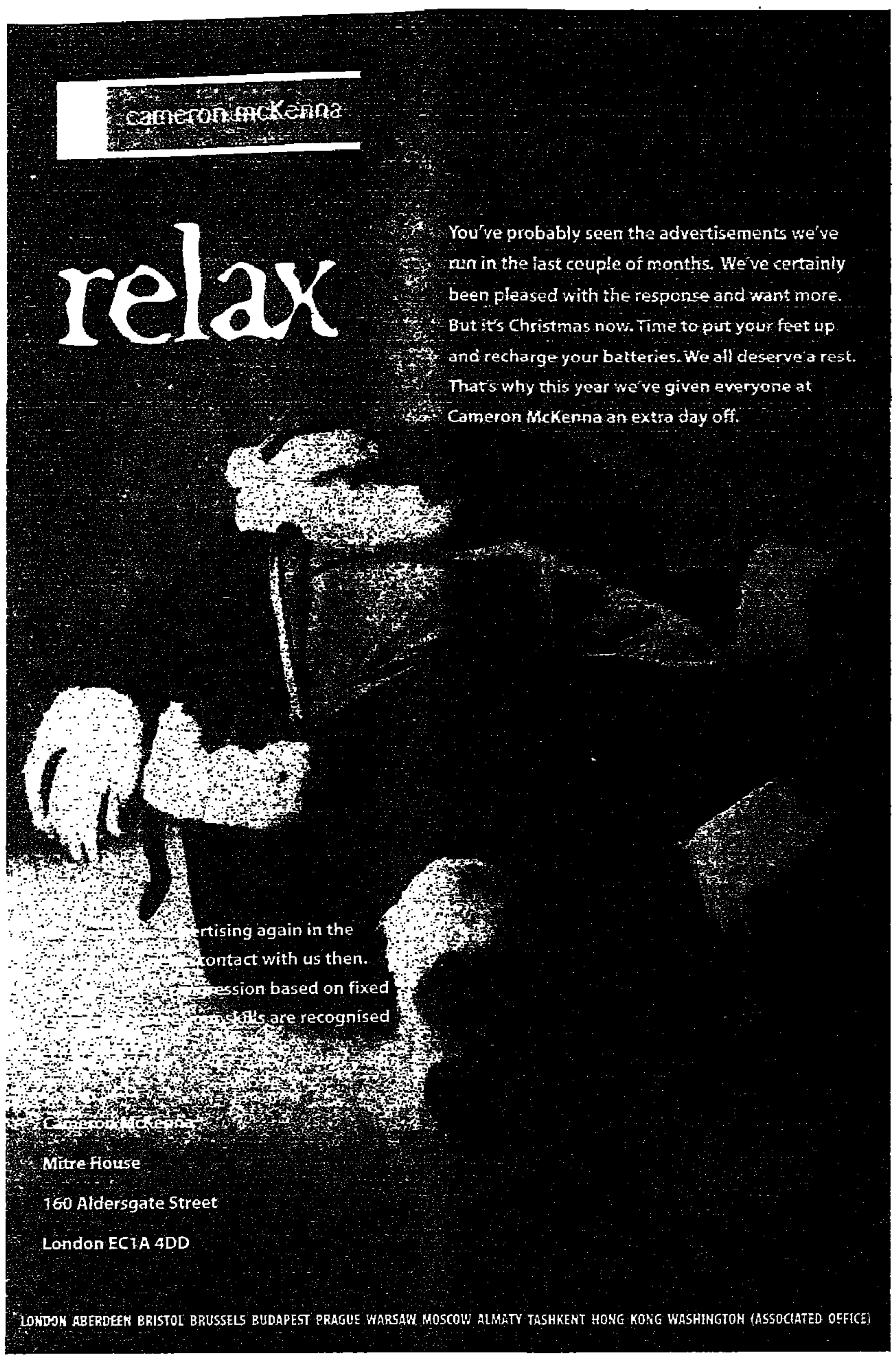

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So whilst we do not want you to tax your brains too much over the holiday period, think about whether it is time for a change.

QD TAX

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171 405 6062 (0171 286 1441, 01926 812486 or 0956 569203 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

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Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

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PENSIONS *To £Partnership*
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PROJECT FINANCE *To £85,000*
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مكبرة من الأصل

هكذا من الإصل

Chris McGrath meets a jockey sticking to his Hennessy winner for Kempton glory

Bradley rides high on ageless talent

The big grey horse galloped towards the fence, hesitated and changed his mind. Needing an extra stride, he suddenly soared towards the top of the fence. Somehow, he cleared it; on landing, however, he crumpled steeply. Across the nation, betting slips bearing the favourite's name were likewise crumpled and flung bitterly to ground.

The long arm of the laws of gravity had Graham Bradley by the neck, forcing him inexorably towards the churned, sticky turf. He pitched over the horse's shoulder, braced for the pain. Then, because he is a jockey of whom some have long used the word "genius" without the slightest discomfort, he stuck out a hand to where the reins were slung over the horse's right ear.

At the same time, his mount straightened up with a jolt. Bradley found the reins back in his grip, his boots in the irons, the horse still in the vanguard of the Hennessy Gold Cup field as they approached the fifth fence. In the betting shops, disbelieving punters began rifling anxiously through the bins.

Suny Bay went on to win the autumn's biggest steeplechase by 13 lengths. That adhesive partnership is resumed at Kempton on Boxing Day, in the Pertemps King George VI Chase. At 37, there is a valedictory edge to every big victory Bradley can conjure — but his singular and accomplished talent is already preserved in many memories, moments such as the fourth fence at Newbury.

That split-second condensed much that has become familiar during the past 15 years: the man's propensity for finding himself in a spot, and his intuitive flair for getting out of one. In his time, Bradley has given the mendacious and ignorant the opportunity to picture him as incorrigible, flawed.

In his younger days, he had problems with the stewards. Happily, the serene figure he has cut so conspicuously this season has never met any slander halfway. He is thoughtful, affectionate and true, utterly lacking in arrogance.

It was difficult to say the same last season of Andrew Cohen, Suny Bay's owner, after he decided that the stable jockey was unlucky in his colours. Replaced by Jamie Osborne in the Grand National, Bradley considered retirement. It is as well for Cohen, principal patron to the Charlie Brooks yard at Lambourn, that he persevered. At least Cohen had the grace to restore Bradley when Osborne was injured in November, but the horse should not have been alone in falling to his knees at the fourth fence in the Hennessy.

Jockeys get used to such treatment and Bradley tends not to dignify it by fretting. "I've had a lot of jobs in my career," the Yorkshireman said. "I still ride for every trainer that's ever employed me. I've always believed in myself. I've never done anything desperately untoward and the Press has been fairly hard on me. But I've never worried about it. I'm a very honest person in life."

Nonetheless, he allowed himself to become disheartened last winter. "I love everyone at Uplands, after six years. But it just didn't feel the same going in, having lost the ride on the stable star. Now I'm back with a spring in my step, loving it."

The revival has been shared by Suny Bay, "a slow old plodder" two years ago. "But when I rode him for the first time at home this year — where usually you have to push him along — he was pulling all the way. At Haydock [on his reappearance] he was incredible, over three miles on good ground. In fact, *he was too free, too fresh.* He kept galloping into the bottom of fences and springing his knee, and got close to several." The fourth at Newbury then became a defining moment — both for Suny Bay's coming of age, and his rider's ageless talent.

That Bradley is performing with rare brio was again apparent a fortnight later *when he and another grey,* Senor El Betrutti, jumped their rivals silly in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham. Not even Bradley, however, can ride two horses at once, and he has stayed with Suny Bay to tackle the grey eminence himself, One Man. "The Senor hates sticky ground and feels better going left-handed. As for three miles, Kempton is where he might just get it, like One Man.

Bradley reasoned: "One Man's obviously a very good horse, but he goes out like a light — Wayward Lad was the same. He never got the trip in *the Gold Cup at Cheltenham,* but was able to win three King Georges. Yes, One Man will take a hell of a lot of beating. But whether he has ever beaten anything as good as Suny Bay, I don't know. My only worry is that some of Charlie's horses have not been right, though Suny Bay is out in a field. I do think him potentially a Gold Cup winner."

It is 14 years since Bradley won the Gold Cup on Bregawn, but do not be deceived by the grey in his hair. It is no more a token of weariness than in the coats of those exuberant jumpers who join issue on Boxing Day.

> 'I've always believed in *myself. I've never done* anything untoward. I'm a very honest person'

CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

Bradley relaxes in the comfort of his Sparsholt home before riding Suny Bay in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day

Dwyer forced into retirement after year on sidelines

MARK DWYER, the dual Gold Cup-winning jockey, has announced his retirement from the saddle after spending a year on the sidelines.

The 34-year-old Irishman, who rode more than 800 winners, suffered a compound fracture of his left elbow in a fall from In Good Faith at Kelso last December and, despite two operations and numerous hours of physiotherapy since, his arm is still not right.

Dwyer met Dr Michael Turner, *the Jockey Club's* chief medical advisor, yesterday and said afterwards: "That is it, I have packed up. Basically, I am fit enough to ride but not fit enough to fall — that is the top and bottom of it. And you cannot carry on like that."

Dwyer, who has a thriving livery yard near Malton, North Yorkshire, quashed suggestions that he would switch to training. "It is not a consideration at the moment, though one day I might think about taking out a permit to train a few of my own."

Dwyer, who rode his first winner, Colneagh Emperior, at Limerick in 1979, went on to become a leading apprentice on the Flat in Ireland before increasing weight forced him to switch to jumping. He joined Jimmy Fitzgerald at Malton in the autumn of 1982.

In 1985, Dwyer won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on *Forgive'N Forget for Fitzgerald,* and in 1993 he followed up on the Peter Beaumont-trained Jodami, on whom he also won the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown three times.

Dwyer's long list of big-race victories also includes the Champion Hurdle on Flakey Dove in 1994, and two Scottish Nationals on Androma in 1984 and 1985.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, STAGE PASS (R Farrant, 12-1); 2, Hisar (G Bradley, 7-2); 3, Midas (A P McCoy, 6-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 3 Lannkaran, 14 Mellors, 20 Among Islands (4th), Designer Lines (6th), 25 Royal Arctic (5th), 33 Bear Hug, 100 Pick-N-Cruise. 10 ran. 4l, 8l, 6l, 8l, 9l. G Barnett at Stoke-on-Trent. Tote: £10.70; £1.70, £2.40, £1.20. DF: £15.70. Trio: £20.30. CSF: £47.75.

1.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, VISCOUNT TULLY (R Thornton, 13-2); 2, Va Utu (G Supple, 8-1); 3, Arioso (Michael Brennan, 12-1); 4, Barryben (R Massey, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5 fav Weather Wise, 7 Always Greener, Danzig Island, 9 Admiral's Guest (6th), Vision Of Freedom, 10 Weaver Square, 16 Sweetly Disposed, 25 Batty's Island, 33 Oakmont (f), Prince Equiname, Reach For Glory, Roll Again (5th), Twice The Groom. 17 ran. 1¾l, 8l, 2½l, 1l, 3l. C Jackson at Malvern. Tote: £7.90; £1.90, £3.10, £3.20, £3.90. DF: £22.90. Trio: £139.40. CSF: £55.54. *Tricast:* £571.61.

1.40 (2m ch) 1, GALE TOI (A P McCoy, 3-1); 2, Stompin (J Culloty, 3-1); 3, Charming Girl (J A McCarthy, evens fav). ALSO RAN: 12 Dance King, 25 Cape Henry (4th), 100 Aldington Chapple (5th). 6 ran. NR: Avanti Express, Just For A Reason. 1¼l, ½l, 30l, ¾l. P Mullins in Ireland. Tote: £4.80; £2.20, £2.60. DF: £6.60. CSF: £11.64.

2.10 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, OH DONNA (M A Fitzgerald, 2-1 fav); 2, Hot 'N Saucy (S McNeill, 10-1); 3, Super Saffron (C Llewellyn, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4 *Hurricane* Jane (4th), Vicar's Vase (5th), 8 Dolce Notte (f), 12 Ruby Rosa, 14 Moonlighter, 20 Audley Lass, Callindoe, 25 Vallis Vale (6th), 33 Folesclave, Indian Legend (f), 50 Nirvana Princess, Pennyahei, Sendante. 16 ran. 3l, 3l, 7l, 2l, 3l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £3.60, £5.00. DF: £38.50. Trio: £324.30. CSF: £22.39.

2.40 (3m ch) 1, FORTUNES COURSE (W Marston, 6-1); 2, Malwood Castle (A Thornton, 9-4 fav); 3, Dromhana (R Dunwoody, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Tellicherry (f), 8 Its Unbelievable, 10 Stop The Waller, 12 Spanish Light, 20 Crown Equerry. 8 ran. Sh hd, dist. J King at Swindon. Tote: £7.00; £2.20, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £9.10. CSF: £19.52. Tricast: £84.18.

3.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, MR STRONG GALE (R Dunwoody, 7-4 fav); 2, Trail Boss (J Culloty, 10-1); 3, Jason's Boy (R Johnson, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Manvulane (4th), 11 Inch Emperor, 6 Frontager, 16 Flaming Miracle. 7 ran. 3½l, 3l, 21l. P Nicholls at Shepton Mallet. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £3.20. DF: £14.80. CSF: £17.77.

3.40 (2m hdle) 1, ROAD RACER (J A McCarthy, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Isitoff (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 3, Iamus (A Maguire, 5-2 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Exalted (4th), 7 Hightech Touch (6th), What A Fuss (5th), 40 *Mimosa,* 100 Yonder Star. 8 ran. NR: Impending Danger. 9l, 4l, 11l, 4l, 17l. P Webber at Banbury. Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £7.10. Trio: £5.80. CSF: £12.63.

Jackpot: £38,822.00 (0.3 winning tickets. Pool of £38,078.11 carried forward to Kempton Park on Friday).

Placepot: £95.20. Quadpot: £28.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.30 (5f) 1, Friendly Brave (R Hughes, 2-1 fav); 2, Goodbye Gatemen (7-1); 3, Rowlandsons Stud (12-1). 8 ran. Sh hd, 2l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.80, £8.00. DF: £4.50. CSF: £14.37. Tricast: £118.22.

1.00 (5f) 1, Just Dissident (M Tebbutt, 11-8 fav); 2, Imp Express (11-2); 3, Mister Raider (9-2). 8 ran. ¾l, 2½l. R Whitaker. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.84. Tricast: £25.62.

1.30 (5f) 1, Tangerine Flyer (P Roberts, 7-2); 2, Best Of Our Days (4-1); 3, Pearly Queen (5-1). Precious Princess 3-1 fav. 8 ran. 3l, *2½l. J Berry. Tote: £5.20; £1.60, £1.20, £2.10.* DF: £9.00. CSF: £18.54.

2.00 (6f) 1, Blue Shadow (T Williams, 7-1); 2, Wolfhunt (9-4 fav); 3, Batchworth Belle (100-30). 10 ran. 1½l, 1½l. R Hannon. Tote: £7.90; £2.00, £1.80, £1.20. DF: £8.90. Trio: £16.80. CSF: £22.08. Tricast: £60.68.

2.30 (7f) 1, Witchfinder (S Whitworth, 3-1); 2, Castle Ashby Jack (10-1); 3, Misconduct (6-1). Super Monarch (4th) 15-8 fav. 15 ran. 6l, nk. Mrs L Stubbs. Tote: £4.40; £1.10, £2.60, £1.30. DF: £9.80. Trio: £19.70. CSF: £29.86.

3.00 (1m 2f) 1, Classic Find (M Fenton, 6-1); 2, Controller (12-1); 3, Chingachgook (20-1). Polished Steel 3-1 *fav.* 14 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. P Mitchell. Tote: £8.40; £2.70, £3.00, £5.60. DF: £57.20. CSF: £75.33. Tricast: £1,285.10.

3.30 (1m 5f) 1, Night City (P Doe, 2-1 *fav*); 2, Tarry (4-1); 3, Soden (14-1). 8 ran. 2l, ½l. K Burke. Tote: £3.80; £2.00, £1.50, £3.00. DF: £7.70. CSF: £9.81. Tricast: £80.42.

Placepot: £39.30. Quadpot: £30.00.

Kelso off again

KELSO'S pre-Christmas meeting fell victim to the weather for the fourth year in succession when the track was hit by thick fog yesterday. Jonnie Fenwicke-Clennell, the clerk of the course, said: "It's rare that we have problems here. We tried our best to get the meeting on, but there was nothing we could do."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In the second OKBridge online challenge match Goldman and Soloway took on the Pavliceks, father Richard and son Rich, US representative in recent World Junior Championships. OKBridge (www.okbridge.com) was devised in 1990 by Matt Clegg of San Diego, and, after four years of increasing popularity through word of mouth, launched commercially in 1994. At last count there were on average 75 virtual tables in play at any time of the day or night.

Dealer East Love all IMPs

North:
♠A 7 4
♥5 4 3 2
♦Q J 10 9 7 2
♣—

West:
♠J
♥9 8
♦A K 8 6 4
♣J 10 6 5 2

East:
♠Q 10 9 8 3
♥J
♦5 3
♣A Q 9 8 4

South:
♠K 6 5 2
♥A K Q 10 7 6
♦—
♣K 7 3

W	N	E	S
Goldman	Pavlicek	Soloway	Pavlicek
—	—	Pass	1 H
2 NT	4 H	5 C	5 D
Pass	6 H		

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of diamonds.

Two No-Trumps was the Unusual No-Trump, showing at least 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits, in this case the minors.

On the face of it, North's Six Heart bid looks optimistic in the extreme. Given that partner's Five Diamond bid shows a void, where are the tricks coming from? Indeed a non-diamond lead leaves South to struggle in vain.

Try a club lead: the best he can do is discard a spade from dummy, to make six hearts in hand, two top spades, two ruffs in dummy, and the king of clubs — leaving him one trick short.

In practice West was unable to resist leading a top diamond, as one generally does holding an ace-king on lead against a slam. Now declarer ruffed, drew trumps and knocked out the ace of diamonds. I wonder if North (Pavlicek senior) saw this coming when he tried *Six Hearts.*

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AMPELOPSIS
a. Long-sightedness
b. Late delivery
c. A psuedo vine

PARTLEK
a. A Nordic goblin
b. A Munich beer festival
c. Training for running

GODBUSH
a. A beard
b. A television evangelist
c. A kind of mistletoe

BIDON
a. French toilet equipment
b. Having two teeth
c. A container

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Britons through

Nigel Short and Michael Adams will meet in the semifinals of the qualifying section of the Fide world championship in Groningen, Holland, after beating Mikhail Krasenkow and Loek Van Wely respectively. A British presence in the final is therefore guaranteed. Here are Short's two victories from his quarterfinal.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Mikhail Krasenkow
Fide world championship
Groningen, December 1997
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	c3	Nf6
4	e5	Nd5
5	Bc4	Nb6
6	Bb3	d5
7	exd6	e6
8	d4	cxd4
9	cxd4	Bxd6
10	0-0	Ne7
11	Nc3	Bd7
12	Ng5	h6
13	Nge4	Bc7
14	Qg4	Nf5
15	Rd1	0-0
16	Nc5	Bc8
17	g3	Nd5
18	Nxd5	exd5
19	Qf3	Ne7
20	Bf4	Bxd4
21	Qxf4	b6
22	Na4	Be6
23	Rac1	Rc8
24	Nc3	Qd7
25	f3	Ng6
26	Qd2	Rc7
27	Ba4	Qc8
28	Re1	Rd8
29	Kf2	Ne7
30	Bb3	Qb8
31	Ne2	Rxc1
32	Rxc1	Rc8
33	Re1	Nc6
34	Bc2	Qd6
35	a3	Ne7
36	Bb3	Kf8
37	Nf4	a5
38	h4	Qd7
39	h5	Qb5
40	Bd1	Rc6
41	g4	Qc4
42	Re3	Qc1
43	Qxc1	Rxc1
44	Ba4	Bc8
45	Nxd5	

Black resigns

White: Mikhail Krasenkow
Black: Nigel Short
FIDE World Championship,
Groningen, December 1997
Bogo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	g3	Bb4+
4	Bd2	Be7
5	Bg2	d5
6	Nf3	0-0
7	0-0	c6
8	Qb3	Nbd7
9	Bg5	b6
10	Re1	Bb7
11	Nc3	Ne4
12	Bxe7	Qxe7
13	Nxe4	dxe4
14	Nd2	c5
15	e3	f5
16	Qc3	e5
17	Rad1	Rfc8
18	f3	exf3
19	Bxf3	Nf6
20	Bxb7	Qxb7
21	Rf1	b5
22	b3	bxc4
23	bxc4	Qc6
24	d5	Qd6
25	Nf3	exd5
26	cxd5	Ne4
27	Qc4	Rab8
28	Rb1	Nxg3
29	Rfc1	Ne4
30	Kh1	Rd8
31	a4	Rxb1
32	Rxb1	g5
33	Rb5	g4
34	Nh4	Qf6

White resigns

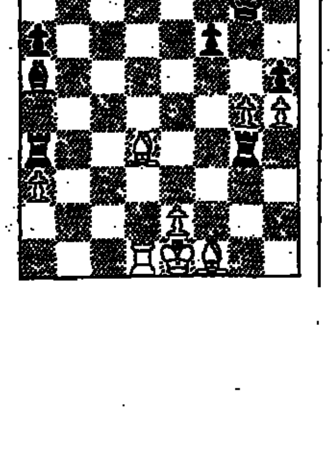
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Agdestein - Hodgson, Hastings 1989.

White's position seems very underdeveloped: his king, bishop and e-pawn are all on their original squares. Nevertheless, this did not prevent him from finding a quick win. How did he continue?

Solution on page 38



GOLF

Women's tour loses Hennessy

THE Hennessy Cup, one of the mainstays of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET) for the past 13 years, is no more, the company having decided that it was no longer getting value for money from its investment (Patricia Davies writes).

Laura Davies, who won the Hennessy for the first time this year, had no doubts about the nature of the blow to the tour, which lost American Express, its overall sponsor, at the end of the season. "Devastating," the former world No 1 said. "That's a knife. It's very, very disappointing to lose a tournament of that stature."

Davies admitted that she was depressed about the Tour's prospects but was keen to help. "I'm talking to sponsors myself," she said, "to try to find backing for a tournament using my name — a bit like the Betsy King Classic in the States. I've got a few irons in the fire and perhaps it will help."

It is scant consolation to her that she will be Hennessy champion in perpetuity.

BOXING

Five-day deadline for King

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

LENNOX LEWIS will learn on Boxing Day if Evander Holyfield is to be his next *opponent. After three days of* talks with Don King, the American promoter, Panix, Lewis's promotion company, has agreed to do everything possible to have the fight staged by April 25 next year.

The London company has signed a promotion contract with King for all Lewis's contests while he is champion. Lewis is now waiting for Holyfield to sign with King.

Panos Eliades, head of Panix, said he could not allow King more than five days to assemble the signatures, because if for some reason Lewis's bout with Holyfield did not take place, Panix would have to arrange for Lewis to meet another opponent (most likely James "Buster" Douglas) in March.

Eliades said yesterday that he hoped Holyfield's terms would not be excessive, for King had still to put the costs of staging the bout before HBO, the American television company that has Lewis under contract.

"We have done everything possible to make the fight," Eliades said. "Now we shall *see what Holyfield values* more, the undisputed championship or money."

Holyfield, the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association champion, had said that he wanted to retire after one more bout as undisputed champion. His aim was to meet Lewis, because the World Boxing Council champion was the only heavyweight of his time he had not met, but also because he needed Lewis's title to become the undisputed champion.

Holyfield could not expect to *be paid the $20 million he* received for meeting Michael Moorer, which had been difficult to sell on pay-per-view and had lost Showtime $10 million.

King also has to persuade Showtime to release him from a contract with them to show all his promotions. One way to achieve this would be to help Showtime to cut its losses on the Holyfield-Moorer fight.

Obituaries, page 19

Lewis, left, the one remaining obstacle that stands in the way of Holyfield achieving his two-fold ambition

POOLS FORECASTS

Saturday December 27 and Sunday December 28

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Barnsley v Derby	X
2 Blackburn v C Palace	1
3 Coventry v Man Utd	2
4 Everton v Bolton	1
5 Leeds v Aston Villa	X
6 Leicester v Sheff Wed	1
7 Tottenham v Arsenal	2
8 Wimbledon v W Ham	X

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9 Birm'gham v Tranmere	1
10 Bradford v Huddersf'ld	X
11 Bury v Crewe	X
12 Man City v Nottm F	1
13 Middlesbro v Stockport	1
14 Oxford v Sunderland	2
15 Port Vale v Wolves	2
16 QPR v Reading	1
17 Sheff Utd v Charlton	1
18 Swindon v Ipswich	1
19 West Brom v Stoke	1

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v Wrexham	X
21 Bristol R v Bournem'th	X
22 Chesterfield v York	1
23 Fulham v Bristol C	2
24 Grimsby v Preston	X
25 Millwall v Luton	1
26 North'pton v Walsall	2
27 Oldham v Burnley	1
28 Southend v Wycombe	1
29 Watford v Plymouth	1
30 Wigan v Carlisle	1

THIRD DIVISION

31 Chester v Scunthorpe	X
32 Exeter v Torquay	1
33 Leyton O v Doncaster	1
34 Macclesf'd v Rochdale	2
35 Mansfield v Lincoln	2
36 Notts Co v Hartlepool	1
37 Peterboro v Brighton	1
38 Rotherham v Hull	1
39 Scarboro v Darlington	1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

40 Aberdeen v Motherwell	1
41 Dunfermline v Hearts	2
42 Hibernian v Kilmarn'k	1
43 Rangers v Dundee U	1
44 St J'stone v Celtic	2

FIRST DIVISION

45 Airdrie v St Mirren	1
46 Ayr v G Morton	X
47 Dundee v Falkirk	1
48 Hamilton v Partick	1
49 Stirling v Raith	2

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Barnsley, Leeds, Wimbledon, Bradford City, Bury, Blackpool, Bristol Rovers, Grimsby, Chester, Ayr.

BEST DRAWS: Barnsley, Wimbledon, Bury, Blackpool, Chester.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Birmingham, Swindon, Chesterfield, Southend, Rotherham. Aways: Manchester United, Sunderland, Bristol City. Draws: Bury, Blackpool, Chester

Saturday January 3

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

1 Arsenal v Port Vale	1
2 Barnsley v Bolton	X
3 Blackburn v Wigan	1
4 Bournem'th v Hudd'f'd	2
5 Bristol R v Ipswich	X
6 Cardiff v Oldham	2
7 Charlton v Nottm F	1
8 Cheltenham v Reading	2
9 Hereford v Tranmere	2
10 Crewe v Birmingham	1
11 C Palace v Scunthorpe	1
12 Darlington v Wolves	2
13 Derby v South'pton	1
14 Grimsby v Norwich	2
15 Leeds v Oxford	1
16 Leicester v N'hampton	1
17 Liverpool v Coventry	1
18 Man City v Bradford C	1
19 Peterboro v Walsall	X
20 Portsmouth v A Villa	2
21 Preston v Stockport	2
22 QPR v Middlesbrough	X
23 R'ham v Sunderland	X
24 Sheff Utd v Bury	1
25 Swindon v Stevenage	1
26 Watford v Sheff Wed	2
27 West Brom v Stoke	1
28 West Ham v Emley	1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

29 Blackpool v Bristol C	2
30 Gillingham v Burnley	X
31 Southend v Luton	1

THIRD DIVISION

32 Exeter v Barnet	1
33 Macclesf'ld v Brighton	2
34 Mansfield v Rochdale	2

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

35 Aberdeen v Dundee U	X
36 Dunf'mline v St J'stone	1
37 Kilmarnock v Motherwell	1

FIRST DIVISION

38 Airdrie v Partick	1
39 Dundee v Raith	1
40 Hamilton v Ayr	1
41 St Mirren v G Morton	X
42 Stirling v Falkirk	X

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

43 Gateshead v Kidd'm'ter	2
44 Halifax v Dover	1
45 H'ford v Farnborough	1
46 Leek v Kettering	1
47 Morecambe v Hayes	1
48 Woking v Welling	1
49 Yeovil v Southport	X

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough, Queens Park Rangers, Rotherham, Gillingham, Aberdeen, St Mirren, Stirling, Yeovil.

BEST DRAWS: Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough, Queens Park Rangers, Aberdeen

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Arsenal, Derby, Sheffield United, West Brom, Exeter. Aways: Huddersfield, Wolves, Aston Villa. Draws: Barnsley, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough

Vince Wright

Win £10,000 as a late Christmas present

The story so far . . .

It's a bit late to be making out a Christmas list, isn't it?
But this is my Interactive Team Football list. I've got my 20 extra transfers burning a hole in my pocket.
For your FA Cup team?
No, that's all done and dusted, with one exception. I'm talking about the 20 extra I got the other week for teams *entered before December 13.*
Well, you don't want to spend it all at once. The season has a long way to go.
Agreed; but I've just spent all week buying things for friends and relatives, and I think it's about time I gave myself a treat.
Who's on the list, then? You've crossed *quite a few* names out, I see.
Yes. I had Padovano down, but he's injured.
Your old striker jinks again.
Possibly. An unkind person would suggest that he and his old mate Lombardo fancied a trip home to Italy for Christmas.
Yes, you would have to be very low on Christmas spirit to suggest such a thing. Who else?
I was wondering if I should give in and get Negri. I don't like to follow the crowd, but he's got 107 points, for goodness' sake, and he shows no signs of slowing down.
And yet it was Durie who scored a hat-trick on Saturday, and he'd come a lot cheaper.
You read my mind. But then yesterday I knew who it was I was looking for.
And that was . . . ?
Jurgen Klinsmann, of course. *He'll* be my team's talisman, and my FA Cup side's as well. It's going to be Ossie's dream all over again, as Jurgen inspires Spurs in all competitions.
He isn't even in the ITF lists yet, though.
No, but I'm not going to waste a transfer on an inferior player. I can wait.
Two things: the busy Christmas programme, and the year.
Good point about the Christmas games. Two in a week for the English Premiership clubs. Perhaps a striker looking at a couple of easy fixtures might be a good investment. But what's the *year got to do with anything?*
Spurs only win the cup in a year with a one in it.
1998 has a one in it.
I meant at the end, of course.
Say what you mean, and mean what you say, then. And what about 1967? Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1.
***Funny year, 1967: a lot of hallucinogenic substances* around. Just because people *thought* they saw it . . .**

Only a couple of weeks until the FA Cup league begins — and for the person who picks the best cup team, a handsome prize awaits

So it's Emley, then. In the wake of the Unibond League team's ejection of Lincoln City from the FA Cup in a second-round replay, supporters of West Ham, their third-round opponents, on their way to Blackburn on Saturday, were asking "Where is Emley, anyway?" and "Will the replay be at Huddersfield?" — mindful, no doubt, of their team's history of hiccups *against lowly opposition.*

There are no foregone conclusions in the cup, but ITF entrants listening to the half-times at a game, or at home checking Ceefax, will experience *more than the usual frisson* as news comes through of underdogs taking a shock lead, or hanging on with minutes to go.

Many people have decided *to enter a new team specifically* for the ITF FA Cup League (including the Tennents Scottish Cup, which will earn ITF points from January 24). Any team entered from now on is *entitled to 20 transfers,* likely to be vital as favoured teams fall by the wayside.

Who will those teams be in the third round? Probably not West Ham, whatever their *followers' fears: Wrexham,* renowned cup fighters, won a replay at Upton Park last season, but the Hammers are formidable at home these days, and John Hartson, *barring injury, would appear* to be a good bet for a hatful of goals. Selhurst Park, on the other hand, could stage two giant-killings in two days: Crystal Palace, without a league win at home, will be *sweating* before the visit of Scunthorpe United on the Saturday, while Wrexham visit south London the following day to face unpredictable Wimbledon.

The meeting of Chelsea and Manchester United will be close, and it is a brave person who would select players from either team, although tight games, with replays a strong possibility, offer opportunities to get two appearances from a player before needing to think about a team change.

For those who want to register an FA Cup League team, the next entry form will appear in *The Times* on December 26.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
0891 884 643
50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Gordon Durie, who scored a hat-trick at the weekend, picked up a handy 18 points. The next best striker's haul was six

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new *Times* Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your *mini-league (womens, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations* are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

0991 111 333

***If you have any problems operating this service,* call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.**

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize
£1,000 monthly prize

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
Professionals choose their fantasy team

STUDENTS' LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	C Purdy	Kates Cosmos	554
1	B Fletcher	Ab Fab	554
3	S Brooks	Sandras Specials	549
3	S Whitfield	Snail Busters	549
5	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	548
6	S Reader	Sophie Reader Fa	536
7	*M Hussain*	*Good Luck Malika*	528
8	L Emery	Buggsy's Boys	526
9	A Bearn	Harry's Heroes	524
10	A Hembrow	The Breconians 1	523
11	C Purdy	Kates Upstarts	520
11	P Johnston	XII Superstars	520
13	T Saul	No Slip Ups	519
14	H Irvine	Hel's Belles	515
15	J Woolner	Janes FC One	508
16	J Peppar	Peppar Pots	506
16	Adach	Fantasy Wolves II	506
16	P Sloan	Patslo Utd	506
19	S Allport	Farmoor Pinks	504
20	J Bitmead	Janet's Allstars	501

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	634
2	G Wilson	*Dog Soldiers*	617
3	*T Gardner*	*6 Chumbawumbas*	576
4	Mr N Wheatley	Witheridge is ill	571
5	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	548
6	C Marianczak	Jansen's Xi	543
7	N Wheatley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	541
8	Steven Shipley	Set Against	524
9	J Windeatt	Father Shaboobop	516
10	I McGill	The White Helmets	511
11	J Frost	Variety Sports Inter	509
12	M Titterington	Stjohn'swaitehse	504
12	E Carmichael	Jedi Masters	504
12	F Ferguson	Saucy Sue Barker	504
15	P Henson	Hensonhammers	502
16	T Sharples	Mr Men	500
17	M Griffiths	The Town	498
17	*D Garrett*	*The Splice Boys*	498
17	C Van Hough	The Boy Sprouts	498
20	S Wilson	FC Rock	497

YOUTH LEAGUE

1	D Lewis	Lewis Boys II	603
2	R Wicke	Robbed	566
2	M McPhillips	Ballygallyrovers	566
4	M Somapala	Horley Flames	559
5	J Gardner	15 Chumbawumbas	548
6	C Marianczak	Jansen's XI	543
7	J Laurence	Smooth United	521
8	C Oysten	The Offspring Fc	516
9	M Roberts	Krystonia Three	505
10	T Smith	Up The League Fc	502
11	O Ledgard	Olivers Army	501
12	A Monteith	Montys Dons	499
12	N McGuinness	The Invincibles	499
14	B McMullan	No Opposition	498
15	*N Brocherton*	*Total Commitment*	496
15	A Simpson	Aye	496
17	K Tindall	Flash XI	493
18	J Tompkins	Joesbunchoftarts	490
18	S Mawer	Forest Reserves2	490
18	E Swirles	Esthers Entertainers	490

ITF LEAGUE

1	Mr M Jones	Jb6	686
2	D Fenton	Out Of The Blue	673
3	Mr M Jones	Jb4	667
4	Mike Madden	Poachers never change	660
5	S Legg	Goose 4	659
6	Malcolm Jackson	No name	651
7	B Fazakerley	LFC 4	647
8	D Shuter	Don 2	644
9	Mr M Jones	Jb5	639
10	G Rainbow	Rainbows Topteam	638
11	N Wheatley	H D G Is A Sad Waster	634
12	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	633
13	*Mr A Colcumbe*	*Mr Wads XI*	629
14	C Burr	Burr's Spurs 4	626
15	AJ Hastings	Golden Wonders	620
15	P Turner	Turners Earners 5	620
15	Mr M Jones	Jb2	630
18	A Luckhurst	Tobs	619
19	G Wilson	Dog Soldiers	617
20	D Shuter	Rassell 2	616
20	*K Farhall*	*Chelsea 6*	616
22	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	615
23	C Sloan	Brantingham FC	613
23	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	Ca	613
25	A Neviazski	Nadar	611
25	G Dolan	Genesis	611
25	P Turner	Turners Earnt 5	611
28	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 7	610
29	*P Rees*	*Yukon Merchants*	608
29	D Ross	Liberos	608
29	P Turner	Turners Earners 6	608
32	A Luckhurst	Caroline B	607
32	J Strickland	CLANB	607
32	R Lockyer	Rachels	607
35	B Bare	TEDDY 1	606
36	G K00ner	United	604
36	*J Hunt*	*John Hunt Fa Cup A*	604
38	Dbusby	This Years Lot	603
39	R Jones	Cell Block H	602
39	Mr P Turner	Te T Cup	602
39	S Legg	Goose 5	602
42	D Shuter	DON 5	601
42	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	601
42	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	601
45	*D Walton*	*Numpty Nuts*	600
46	Michael Huddlestone	Pulp Faction III	599
46	Brian O'Hare	The Warriors (Come out to play	599
46	Jon Pregon	Jp 1	599
49	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 1	598
49	Steven Adams	Britannia Stokies	598
51	A Luckhurst	TOBLITT	597
51	P Bown	Bees XI	597
51	*P Turner*	*Turners Earnt 1*	597
54	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	596
54	R Calder	Bobs Boys6	596
54	S Legg	Goose 8	596
57	I Ralph	Marco Champions	595
57	K Farhall	Chelsea 2	595
57	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 8	595
60	P Turner	Turners Earners 4	594
61	*A Maddocks*	*Beta*	592
62	M Lindquist	Huntleys Rangers	591
62	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Charioteers	591
62	V Cox	Pegasus And Unicorns	591
65	DM Carter	Pinewood Form	590
65	A Lynn	Angus's Boingers	590
67	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	589
67	P Turner	Turners Earners 9	589
69	*A Ston*	*Spartak Monkey*	588
69	RJ Ward	Nonchalont A FC 4	588
69	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Streetfighters	588
69	Andy Robson	Club 18-30	588
73	J Kitchen	Simbas Dream	587
73	W Clark	Blazen Heads	587
73	P Turner	Turners Earners 1	587
76	Mr A Mellon	Shorts Hits	586
77	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	585
77	Henry Wheeler	Quito Fan	585
77	Mr K Lethby	KJ43	585
80	H Pritchard	Cymru Am Byth 12	584
80	P Rawlings	Eastbrook Stars	584
80	G Millington	Survivors	584
83	A Luckhurst	Eddie Woo	583
83	C Paget	Inwithashoutatit	583
83	I Ralph	Ralphy Boys	583
83	*Jeremy Dwyer*	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	583
83	Mary Ann Kennedy	Oilrig Pack RNG	583
88	D Shuter	Don 1	582
88	A Luckhurst	Woe!	582
88	Susan Makin	Spud2	582
88	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	582
92	A Luckhurst	Caroline A	581
92	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 4	581
92	J Duignan	Fc Pippa	581
95	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	580
95	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strollers	580
95	Adam Fitzjohn	Al4	580
95	J Hunt	John Hunt Taunton 2	580
95	Mrs P Tansley	Az	580
100	T Gammage	Drowned Goldfish	579

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	395
2	Paul Simpson	Derby County/Wolves	394
3	Alf-Inge Haaland	Leeds United	390
4	Steve Potts	West Ham United	382
4	John Salako	Coventry City	382
6	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	374
7	Rob Savage	Leicester City	368
8	Dean Blackwell	Wimbledon	364
9	Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	356
10	David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	344
11	Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	336
12	David Batty	Newcastle United	334
13	Richard Shaw	Coventry City	333
14	*Kevin Gallacher*	*Blackburn Rovers*	326
15	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	325
16	Tim Breacker	West Ham United	322
17	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	321
18	Bjorn Kvarme	Liverpool	320
19	Kenny Cunningham	Wimbledon	319
20	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	316
21	David Wetherall	Leeds United	315
22	*Teddy Sheringham*	Manchester United	310
23	Dave Watson	Everton	307
23	Phil Babb	Liverpool	307
25	Dennis Wise	Chelsea	306
25	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	306
27	Dean Holdsworth	Wimbledon	304
28	Paul Williams	Coventry City	303
29	Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	301
30	David Seaman	Arsenal	300
31	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	298
32	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	297
33	Patrick Berger	Liverpool	294
34	Andrew Liddell	Barnsley	292
34	John Hendrie	Barnsley	292
36	Nicky Butt	Manchester United	291
37	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	288
38	Ian Pearce	West Ham	287
39	Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	286
40	Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	284
41	Chris Powell	Derby County	281
42	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	280
43	Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	277
44	John Beresford	Newcastle United	276
45	Pontus Kaamark	Leicester City	270
46	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	269
47	*Steve Lomas*	*West Ham United*	264
48	Robin Van Der Laan	Derby County	263
48	Jason Euell	Wimbledon	263
50	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	261
50	Graeme Le Saux	Chelsea	261
50	Richard Jobson	Leeds United	261
50	Roger Cross	Tottenham Hotspur	261
54	Stewart Castledine	Wimbledon	259
55	Neil Redfearn	Barnsley	258
56	Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	255
57	Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	254
58	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	253
59	Danny Williamson	Everton	247
60	Darren Pitcher	Crystal Palace	245
61	Gary Neville	Manchester United	237
62	David Beckham	Manchester United	235
63	John Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	234
64	*Alan Wright*	*Aston Villa*	226
65	John Hartson	West Ham United	225
66	Spencer Prior	Leicester City	221
67	Iain Dowie	West Ham United	215
68	Mark Wright	Liverpool	213
69	Nicky Eaden	Barnsley	211
70	Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	196
70	Colin Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	196
72	Lee Carsley	Derby County	176
73	Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	169
74	Marc Edworthy	Crystal Palace	167
75	Mike Whitlow	Bolton	107

INTERNET LEAGUE

1	Mike Madden	Poachers never change	660
2	Mary Ann Kennedy	Inverness Undecided	633
3	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Strikers	615
4	Barba Papa a la Bacon	Novote Spoilers	601
4	Mary Ann Kennedy	Too Farr	601
6	Michael Huddlestone	Pulp Faction III	599
6	*Brian O'Hare*	*The Warriors (Come o*	599
8	P Bown	Bees XI	597
9	Chris Forde	Game of Two Pints	596
10	Michael Horan	St. Patrick's Chario	591
11	George Mijuskovich	Big Mac Europe	589
12	Graeme Dabnor	St Remy Streetfighters	588
12	Andy Robson	Club 18-30	588
14	Tim Oldfield	Winster Warriors 1	585
14	*Henry Wheeler*	Quito Fan	585
16	Jeremy Dwyer	Nudge Nudge Wink Win	583
16	Mary Ann Kennedy	Oilrig Pack RNG	583
18	Susan Makin	Spud2	582
18	Philip Ward	Wannabe Heroes XI	582
20	Andrew Bates	Wetherby Racing 7	580

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty-shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
*Keeps clean sheet (per Half)***	*+3 points*	*Scores goal*	*+2 points*
Scores goal	+20 points	**All players**	
Saves penalty	+1 point	On winning side	+1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Appearance†	+1 point
Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points	Scores hat-trick	+10 bonus points
Scores goal	+4 points	**Manager**	
Midfield player		Wins	+3 points
Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point	Draws	+1 point
Scores goal	+3 points		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	-1 point
Concedes goal	-2 points	Concedes penalty	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	-1 point
Concedes goal	-1 point	Scores own goal	-1 point
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	-3 points	Team loses	-1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points *Must have played for 75 minutes in the match †Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman *(18 or over)* you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth league. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league *(Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Scottish FA Cup)* as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on

0891 405 011

From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 308

- You must use a Touch-tone *(DTMF)* telephone *(most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).*
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals *(2 players or 1 player and 1 manager)* from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
- *You will* be given a ten-digit personal indentification number *(PIN)* at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a tiebreak will operate.

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مكتبة الأهرام

Full updated players lists and transfer guide

Careful examination of the Christmas fixtures may yield dividends in the transfer market for new players

At Pride Park, Derby County's newly-built home ground, a casual visitor can expect to hear a strange and alarming noise rolling around the stands, rising to a crescendo before being lost in a ghostly echo in the desolate wastes of the reclaimed industrial land that surrounds the stadium.

Poooooooommmm!! It is most frequently heard after any action involving the team's Estonian goalkeepr, Mart Poom. The fact that Poom's surname is supposed to rhyme with "norm" rather than "room" puts nobody off.

The Derby supporters who shout his name were no doubt disappointed that their team could only draw 0-0 with Crystal Palace on Saturday, but for Poom it completed a successful week that included two clean sheets; the goalless draw at Newcastle in midweek helped any ITF entrant with Poom as their goalkeeper to a total of 14 points — three for each goalless half, and two appearance points.

It provided a timely reminder that careful consideration of the fixture lists can be rewarding. Two transfers are used by bringing in a player for one specific game: a player due to play a succession of games against potentially unthreatening opposition can save a potentially useful transfer later in the season.

This week, the Christmas programme sees all FA Carling Premiership clubs playing twice, giving teams the opportunity to make up lost ground, or open up a decisive gap, with two three-point hauls. In ITF too, a player hitting form could net you enough points to jump thousands of places. Although there are no New Year's Day fixtures in England this year, next weekend sees some interesting pairs of games.

Poom and Derby face Newcastle United at home on Boxing Day and Barnsley away next Sunday, and will be optimistic of shutting both out.

Tottenham, a team down in the dumps after big defeats by Chelsea and Coventry, could be boosted by their victory over Barnsley in a fixture many tipped them to lose and the news that Jurgen Klinsmann, their former favourite, will be rejoining them on loan. Add to that the avowed intention of David Ginola to force his way back into the France international picture before summer's World Cup, and an away game against out-of-form Aston Villa and the north London derby at White Hart Lane look attractive propositions.

Manchester United are unlikely to be quaking in their boots at the prospect of receiving Everton, first away win of the season or not, nor of a trip to Highfield Road, despite Coventry's four goals in their last home match.

Chelsea, however, might be a team to avoid if you are looking to plunder players. They play at The Dell next Monday, and could, despite Southampton's recent improvement, continue their recent goalscoring form away from home.

However, their Boxing Day visitors are Wimbledon, who have won the last two District Line derbies at Stamford Bridge; two years ago to the day they finished with ten men (Vinnie Jones having been dismissed for a foul on Ruud Gullit) but still triumphed 2-1, and took the honours last autumn with a powerful performance, winning 4-2. The horses for courses argument is a powerful one in football.

■ ITF helpline: 01582 702720.

Mart Poom of Derby County, who accumulated an impressive 14 points over the week

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no changes to the ITF lists this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

☐ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	–9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	52
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	36
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	–34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	8	49
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	38
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	8	38
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	3	63
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	17
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	7	31
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	14	40
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	3	21
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0	9
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	3
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50	–11	44
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	–9	–9
11602	*O Gottskalksson*	*Hibernian*	*1.50*	*0*	*4*
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	8	6
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	8	64
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	1	51
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	8	56
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	16	90
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	29
12501	*K Pressman*	*Sheffield Wed*	*2.00*	*–7*	*–11*
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	2	2
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	20
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	8	24
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00	0	4
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	51

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	12
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	27
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	0	15
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50	0	14
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	16
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	17
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	8
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	–3	–8
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	–5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	–2	–7
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	3.00	5	32
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.50	0	8
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	2.00	0	3
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton W	1.50	0	9
20602	R Elliott	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
20603	J Phillips	Bolton W	1.00	–2	–4
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	5	45
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	2
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	9	46
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	1	27
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	5	49
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0	20
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	13
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	10
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	9
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00	0	–1
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	4	17
21002	*M Edworthy*	*Crystal Palace*	*1.50*	*0*	*2*
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	–1
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	8	20
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	4	1
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	8	8
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	5	6
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	4	5
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	–1
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50	0	5
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	–4	8
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	5	9
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	5	23
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	4	25
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50	0	33
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	21
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	5	13
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	10	44
22103	*P Neville*	*Manchester Utd*	3.50	9	33
22301	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	4	17
22302	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	4	9
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	0	20
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00	0	25
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	–15
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	–4	–11
22701	*J Dodd*	Southampton	1.50	0	13
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	5
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	5	4
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham H	2.00	0	–9
22803	S Carr	Tottenham H	2.00	5	0
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	1.50	–2	–1
22903	T Breacker	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
23001	*B Thatcher*	Wimbledon	2.00	0	17
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	13
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	6

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	0	–22
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	13
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	2
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	11
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	23
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	–2	–20
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	–3	–23
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	–3	–8
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	5	28
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	5	21
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	2
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	–1	12
30603	*C Fairclough*	*Bolton W*	*1.00*	*–1*	*–3*
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	0	13
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	5	12
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5	44
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	29
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	5	39
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	1	24
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	1	14
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	–1
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	13
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	–5
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	4	15
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	10
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	4	1
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	4	13
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50	0	12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	1	17
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	–1	–1
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	0	–18
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	5	15
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50	4	12
31501	*D Weir*	*Hearts*	2.00	–5	25
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	–4	–13
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	4	35
31802	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	5	24
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	5	14
31804	*L Radebe*	*Leeds Utd*	2.00	0	15
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	46
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00	4	31
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0	33
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	–1	7
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	5	21
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	4	30
30501	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	10	40
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	3	9
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	–1	6
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	3	10
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50	–1	29
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	29
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0	5
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	–3	–4
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	–3	–3
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	1
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	–5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	2
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	7
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	5
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	5	6
32802	J Scales	Tottenham H	2.50	0	1
32803	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	3
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	5	6
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50	–2	0
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00	–3	3
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	0	2
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00	–2	–6
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	13
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	18

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	1	21
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	1	8
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	0	42
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0	3
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50	0	32
40205	*D Platt*	*Arsenal*	1.50	*0*	19
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	2	28
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	5	29
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	1	43
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	1	20
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	12
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	1	17
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn R	3.00	3	26
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn R	3.00	3	23
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn R	3.00	3	35
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn R	3.00	1	25
40601	A Thompson	Bolton W	2.50	0	29
40602	S Sellars	Bolton W	2.00	0	19
40603	*P Frandsen*	*Bolton W*	2.00	1	28
40604	M Johansen	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
40605	J Pollock	Bolton W	2.00	1	28
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	1	26
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	7
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00	3	21
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	8	46
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	3	14
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50	2	32
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	2	33
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	9
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	*G McAllister*	*Coventry City*	2.50	*0*	20
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50	1	22
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	15
40904	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	5
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	2	24
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	2	26
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	22
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	6
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50	1	25
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	3	9
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	19
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	14
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	1	40
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50	0	43
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	5	43
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	3	12
41404	*D Williamson*	Everton	*2.00*	*0*	*19*
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50	3	3
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50	1	48
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	6
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	20
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	2	27
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	1	16
41802	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.00	3	29
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	0
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds Utd	2.50	6	13
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	10
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	1	30
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00	1	36
41904	*S Taylor*	*Leicester City*	1.50	*0*	*0*
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00	3	52
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00	3	26
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	3	20
42006	*P Ince*	*Liverpool*	*4.00*	*0*	*21*
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	6	50
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	9	46
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	5	42
42105	*A Cole*	Manchester Utd	7.00	7	67
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	2	8
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0	25
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	2	31
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	2	19
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	3.00	3	38
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50	1	26
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	24
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00	0	16
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	5	31
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	33
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	23
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4	23
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	7
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wed	1.50	1	12
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0	6
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	1	20
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00	1	21
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50	1	6
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	11
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham H	3.00	3	18
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham H	3.00	2	7
42803	R Fox	Tottenham H	2.00	3	23
42804	D Howells	Tottenham H	2.00	0	16
42805	D Ginola	*Tottenham H*	3.00	9	36
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	1	45
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	-2	24
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	13
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	29
43002	N Ardley	*Wimbledon*	2.00	*0*	25
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	17
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	0	26
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	16

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00	1	27
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	47
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00	0	26
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00	2	21
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00	0	14
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	0	11
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	0	21
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn R	5.50	2	44
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	12
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	0	54
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	1	30
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	15
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	13
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	0	11
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	0	18
50705	*H Larsson*	*Celtic*	4.50	*4*	36
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	2	48
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	23
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	1	40
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	1	27
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	1	4
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	25
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	17
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	4
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	1	24
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50	2	46
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	2	6
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50	1	8
51201	A McLaren	Dundee Utd	3.00	4	23
51202	*K Olofsson*	*Dundee Utd*	*4.00*	*4*	*41*
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00	0	16
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00	1	12
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50	2	4
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	2	25
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00	2	5
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	1	8
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00	4	21
51702	*A Mitchell*	*Kilmarnock*	2.50	2	20
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	3	25
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	3.50	2	42
51804	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	1
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50	1	13
51902	*E Heskey*	*Leicester City*	*4.50*	*0*	*21*
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	0	27
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	1	14
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	2	25
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	27
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50	0	21
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	4	12
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	3	21
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	3	37
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	2	26
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	6	31
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	2	30
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle Utd	10.00	0	0
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle Utd	6.00	2	14
52304	*J Tomasson*	*Newcastle Utd*	2.00	1	9
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50	4	107
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	18	28
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	1	30
50702	*P Di Canio*	*Sheffield Wed*	*3.00*	*1*	33
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	1	18
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50	1	26
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00	3	11
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	0	6
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	1	24
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00	0	16
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham H	3.50	2	12
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	2	23
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham H	3.00	0	0
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50	1	47
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00	1	14
52903	*I Dowie*	West Ham United	1.50	*0*	*9*
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	0	17
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00	0	22
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00	0	5

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50	–1	0
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00	0	26
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	0	13
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50	–1	1
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn R	3.50	3	37
60601	C Todd	Bolton W	1.50	–1	13
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00	3	35
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	3	33
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00	–1	13
61001	*S Coppell*	*Crystal Palace*	*0.75*	1	13
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50	2	23
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00	3	17
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00	–1	15
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00	3	7
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50	–1	33
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00	–1	1
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00	3	13
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00	3	29
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50	–1	21
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00	3	26
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester Utd	5.00	6	41
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00	3	7
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0	20
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00	3	35
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wed	1.50	–1	7
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50	1	9
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50	–1	11
62802	C Gross	Tottenham H	2.00	3	4
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00	–1	15
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00	0	16

SPORT IN BRIEF

Yorkshire boxer who drew a crowd

BRUCE WOODCOCK, the former British and European heavyweight chamion, has died at the age of 76. Doncaster-born and bred, Woodcock was a big name in British boxing in the years immediately following the Second World War.

He won the British and Empire titles by knocking out Jack London at White Hart Lane in July, 1945 before a crowd of 60,000 and a year later added the European crown by knocking out Albert Renet.

One of his most memorable defences of his British title was in 1949, against Freddie Mills, who he knocked out in the fourteenth round. He retired in 1950 after being dethroned by Jack Gardner and became a publican.

Obituaries, page 19

Borrowed time

■ SQUASH: **Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, has retained his world No 1 ranking to complete a tenth year at the top of the international circuit. But Peter Nicol, of Scotland, seems certain to replace him when the next ranking list is issued in February.**

Nicol, ranked second, has beaten Jansher three times this year and reached the final of the World Open, which Jansher decided to miss, in which he lost to Rodney Eyles, of Australia, who is ranked fourth.

Banned for life

■ ICE SKATING: The Russian speedskater Svetlana Fedotkina, an Olympic silver medal-winner, will be banned for life after refusing to submit to a dope test. Fedotkina tested positive for anabolic steroids nearly two years ago and was suspended until January 6, 1998.

In November this year, she refused to submit to a test while training in Calgary, Alberta, saying she was on a private visit. "We consider it a repeat offence," Gerd Zimmermann, the president of the International Skating Federation, said. "A lifelong ban follows, there is no doubt in this case."

All downhill

■ SKIING: **The pre-Christmas World Cup Alpine skiing campaign fizzled out in acrimony and a notable absence of seasonal goodwill yesterday after another race was lost because of the conditions in Madonna Di Campiglio.**

Thousands of Alberto Tomba's Italian fans were disappointed and Tomba said that officials should at least have started the slalom, to see how the course held up. Local people responsible for preparing the piste said it was fit for use.

FOOTBALL

Barnsley to stand by player who took drugs

By Russell Kempson

BARNSLEY are expected to stand by Dean Jones after their young defender was yesterday suspended for three months by the Football Association for failing a drugs test. John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, and Danny Wilson, the manager, are unlikely to follow the lead taken by several other clubs who have dismissed players found guilty of similar offences.

Jones, 20, tested positive for amphetamines at Barnsley's training ground in October. He is the first player in the FA Carling Premiership to fail a drugs test and pleaded guilty to the offence at an hour-long hearing in London.

He claimed he took the substance at a nightclub on October 26 to keep him awake, not to enhance his performance. Dennis will meet Wilson to discuss the future of Jones, who has yet to break into the first team and whose suspension will run until February next year.

Jones: failed test

A year ago, Leyton Orient released Roger Stanislaus, the defender, after he had been handed a one-year ban by the FA after being found guilty of using cocaine, a performance-enhancing drug. Craig Whitington, the Huddersfield Town striker, was also dismissed by his club after he became the first English player to test positive for banned substances (cannabis) on two occasions.

Earlier this month, Jamie Stuart, Charlton Athletic's former England Under-21 defender, was released after testing positive for cocaine and marijuana. "We take a very serious view of this sort of thing," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday. Michael Spink, the Barnsley secretary, said: "The player is full of remorse and until now has been a model professional."

John McDermott, the former Watford youth development officer, has been appointed England's first national football development officer. McDermott, 30, will be responsible for implementing the FA's small-sided game initiative for under-tens as well as the new Chartermark recommendations for schools, junior clubs and coaching courses.

His work will also mean taking charge of the FA's new child protection initiative, designed to ensure there is no breach of trust between coaches and teachers and their players. Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director, views it as an essential first move towards improving the long-term standing of English football.

"Appointing John to this job is absolutely fundamental," Wilkinson, the former Leeds United manager, said. "His job, particularly with small-sided football for youngsters, will play a massive part in changing the course of football in this country for the better. There is no more influential area than the youngest players, the grass roots of the game, and that is where John and his team will be working."

Tom Pendry, MP was yesterday appointed chairman designate of the Football Trust and will take up the post early in the new year when Lord Aberdare, the present chairman, retires after 19 years. Pendry was the founding chairman of the influential All-Party Football Group in 1982 and served in the role for ten years before becoming the Shadow Minister for Sport and Tourism, a position he held until the general election.

Lord Aberdare has been chairman of the Trust since its inception in 1979.

Norwich cooking, page 5

ENRIQUE RED

Marcelo Salas, the Chile striker playing for River Plate, parades his national flag after scoring the goal that secured a third successive Argentine championship for his club

Northern Ireland give Royle time to consider

JOE ROYLE, the former Oldham and Everton manager, will tell the Irish Football Association (IFA) next month if he wants to become Northern Ireland's new manager.

Royle has been interviewed by Jim Boyce, the IFA president, who said yesterday: "We had an excellent meeting and I was very impressed. I'm going away on a week's holiday over Christmas and Joe has said he will ring me early in the new year to let me know if he still wants his name to be in the frame.

"But I intend to speak to other people, which Joe is fully aware of, and the international committee will make the final appointment."

Boyce claimed the IFA was still in no hurry to appoint a new manager, even though it is two months since it sacked Bryan Hamilton. "There is no panic," he said.

"Our next match is not until March 25, against Colombia at Windsor Park, and even that is not 100 per cent certain. I'm just determined to get the best man for Northern Ireland."

Mickael Madar, a 29-year-old striker with the Spanish club Deportivo La Coruña, is expected to join Everton later this week on a free transfer.

"We have been told by Deportivo that all the documents are in the post," Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, who is desperate for a regular goalscorer, said yesterday. "Obviously he will need a medical, and then we will take it from there."

Madar has just regained his place in Deportivo's first team after recovering from a broken leg. He was included in the France squad for the 1996 European championship.

Even if the transfer does proceed smoothly, he will not be cleared in time to play in Everton's match against Manchester United on Boxing Day. His debut seems more likely to be against Bolton Wanderers next Sunday, a game vital to both clubs in their efforts to retain their Premiership status.

Derby County are forming a Carlisle connection, but deny that the Nationwide League second division side will become a feeder club for the Premiership team.

Carlisle have Nick Wright, of Derby, on loan and the Derby manager, Jim Smith, plans to bring Matt Jansen from Carlisle to Pride Park early in the new year for a week's training.

"We're having discussions with Carlisle and are forging a relationship with them, but it's an informal one," Smith said.

£42m expansion for St James' Park

By Jason Nissé

NEWCASTLE United yesterday unveiled a £42 million plan to add 14,000 new seats to St James' Park — conceding that their controversial scheme to move to a purpose-built stadium at Castle Leazes park is now essentially dead.

It is hoped that building work will be finished in time for the 2000-2001 season, taking the capacity to 51,000. Nearly half of the new seats will be "premium seats", boosting corporate entertainment facilities. The redevelopment should bring in £15 million of extra revenue each year.

Sir Terence Harrison, Newcastle's chairman, said the company had not withdrawn its application for planning permission for the £65 million Castle Leazes plan. However, he said: "The original application is taking forever. Given all the local opposition, we thought it best to have an alternative plan."

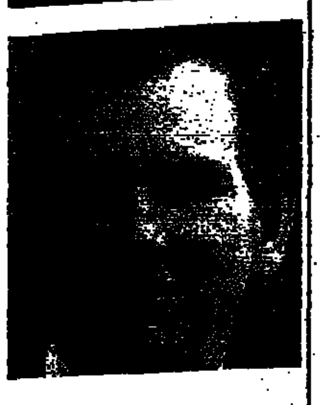
Newcastle hope that the city council will approve the St James' Park plan in time for work to begin at the end of this season. This assumes that the plan will not have to go to a public inquiry.

The club is planning an extra tier on to the Milburn Stand, the North West Corner and the Sir John Hall Stand. By building behind the stands and reaching over the top, Newcastle hope to complete the work without cutting the capacity of St James' in the process. Jo Davies, the club's finance director, said the redevelopment will be financed without having to raise more money from shareholders or cutting the amount available to Kenny Dalglish, the manager, to develop his squad. "We have a strong cash flow and should be able to raise any more money we need through the debt markets," she said.

The City was encouraged by the plans. "The fans are pleased the club is staying at St James' Park and the long-term benefits should feed through to the share price," Vinay Bedi, an analyst at Wise Speak, the Newcastle-based stockbrokers, said.

Fifa cashing in while clubs pay high price

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

They say that men hallucinate in the desert and Ronaldo and Terry Venables spent some of Sunday night probably doing just that. Ronaldo, the finest goalscorer in the world, made his excuses of tiredness, of overplay, of a shoulder injury before the Confederations' Cup final in Saudi Arabia ... then scored three goals, made another two, and seemed to frolic through the 6-0 thrashing of Australia.

It is a spurious tournament, the brainchild of Fifa, football's world governing body, to fill a couple of midwinter weeks with the millions that King Fahd is willing to put up.

But Venables, who may be on his way from Australia to coach South Africa in the World Cup, at least found reality in the $568 million stadium in Riyadh. He learnt that Brazil may let you draw 0-0 in the early rounds, but bring on the final and Messrs Ronaldo and Romario will each help themselves to hat-tricks.

Australia are rank novices at the international game and Brazil decided to demonstrate it. Australia had a man sent off, Mark Viduka, midway through the first half for fouling Cafu. This is not the done thing against the world champions and rather than kick the joy out of Ronaldo and Romario, it possibly inspired them.

No less than four of the six goals dispatched past Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa and Australia goalkeeper, were delightfully brought down on the chest and then either half-volleyed or allowed to hit the turf before being swept imperiously into the net.

But what was Ronaldo's beef? He was playing his 75th competitive game of the year. Mario Zagallo, his national team coach, had prefaced the semi-final, never mind the final, by suggesting that he might rest him. "He's very tired, stressed," the coach said. "Both in his legs and in his head. On the field, his thoughts are elsewhere. A Ronaldo like this is no good to Brazil, above all no good to himself."

And the 21-year-old himself? "Time is the one thing I don't have," Ronaldo said. "I thought of asking Santa Claus for more of it, but I know even he can't help me here." He means time for his family, time to relax, time to see the world capitals that he visits. He certainly does not lack the ability to create time and space in penalty boxes.

It is Fifa that, shamelessly, milks his talent for its profits. Sepp Blatter, the general secretary, had the gall to say on the eve of this tournament that countries such as Spain and England should reduce their premier leagues to 16 clubs — all the better to allow Fifa to impose more tournaments and more travel on the world's talents. Consequently, of course, the European clubs that pay the players' wages are suffering.

In Italy on Sunday, Internazionale lost their unbeaten record this season, losing 1-0 to a last-minute goal away to Udinese. Inter remain top of Serie A, but by a reduced margin; they lacked a goalscorer.

And elsewhere, not least at Old Trafford last week, where Villa's reserve goalkeeper, Michael Oakes, was beaten through his legs for Manchester United's winner by Ryan Giggs, the folly of Fifa is making the clubs pay dearly. At least in the Bernabéu on Sunday, Real Madrid eked out a win, courtesy of two goals from Davor Suker, and so made light of the absence of their Brazilian, Roberto Carlos.

Brazil, by capitalising on a tournament where the king's ransom to the winner was $1.5 million (about £920,000), can be said to be warming up for the World Cup. Do not be surprised if the clubs are also warming up with claims of compensation for their burnt-out stars.

Ronaldo, of Brazil, has played 75 games this year

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens pay record fee for Sculthorpe

ST HELENS will today unveil Paul Sculthorpe as the most expensive forward in the British game. They have completed a £350,000 deal with Warrington for the 20-year-old Great Britain player, with David Howes, the chief executive, saying: "There are just a few loose ends to tie up."

Chris Morley, St Helens' £70,000-rated Wales forward, will move to Warrington as part of the deal, with St Helens having to find a further £280,000.

Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain loose-forward, was previously the most expensive forward, having cost Leeds £250,000 when he moved from Wigan in 1991.

Joey Hayes, the St Helens wing, was lined up to join Morley in the transfer, but failed to agree terms with Warrington.

The Knowsley Road club are still in profit in closed-season transfer activity, having received £350,000 from Hull for Alan Hunte, Simon Booth and Steve Prescott, plus a further £50,000 from Huddersfield for Danny Arnold.

For Morley, 24, the older brother of Adrian, the Leeds and Great Britain back row forward, it will be almost a homecoming, for he joined St Helens from the Warrington amateur club, Woolston, six years ago.

St Helens held off competition from Wigan to secure the prized signature of Sculthorpe, who collected the last of his eight Great Britain caps against Australia in November. Wigan were the first club to make an offer for one of the most exciting players in the British game. London, Leeds and Bradford were also interested.

Leeds Rhinos are allowing nine squad players to switch on loan to Bramley, the second division club. All nine — including David and Anthony Gibbons, who spent last season on loan with Keighley Cougars — will join the Rhinos' Yorkshire neighbours in time for the centenary challenge match against Hunslet at Headingley on Sunday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 108 Utah 101; Boston 99 LA Clippers 77, Vancouver 88 Portland 86

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 97 Worthing Bears 63, Sheffield Sharks 76 Chester Jets 67; Birmingham 91 Manchester Giants 87.

	P	W	L	Pts
Birmingham	14	13	1	26
London Towers	15	13	2	26
Thames Valley	14	10	4	20
Sheffield	13	9	4	18
Manchester	14	9	5	18
Leopards	14	9	5	18
Newcastle	15	8	7	16
Chester	11	6	5	12
Leicester	13	5	8	10
Worthing	18	5	13	10
Derby	14	3	11	6
Crystal Palace	15	3	12	6
Watford	16	0	16	0

BOWLS

THORNABY: Saga International Masters: Semi-finals: G Skipp (Thornaby) bt D Holt (Blackpool) 15-14, A Thomson (Cyphers) bt D Bryant (Clevedon) 15-8. Third place play-off: Holt bt Bryant 15-12. Final: Thomson bt Skipp 15-12.

CRICKET

First one-day international match

India v Sri Lanka

GUWAHATI (India won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Jadeja b Mohanty	1
M S Atapattu c Mongia b Mohanty	8
R S Mahanama c Jadeja b Singh	62
P A de Silva c Chauhan b Mohanty	4
*A Ranatunga c Singh b Ganguly	27
R S Kaluwitharana c Bahutule b Singh	23
H D P K Dharmasena c Bahutule b Singh	9
U Chandana lbw Singh	4
W P U J C Vaas not out	7
M Muralitharan b Singh	1
†S K de Silva not out	3
Extras (lb 9, nb 2, w 6)	17
Total (9wkts, 45overs)	172

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-22, 3-30, 4-92, 5-133, 6-152, 7-156, 8-161, 9-167

BOWLING: Mohanty 9-1-31-3, Srinath 9-4-16-0; Chauhan 7-0-30-0; Ganguly 6-0-31-1; Bahutule 9-0-33-0; Singh 5-0-22-5

INDIA

S C Ganguly b Vaas	12
A Jadeja run out	7
N S Sidhu c Atapattu b Muralitharan	36
*S R Tendulkar not out	82
M Azharuddin not out	28
Extras (lb 1, w 6, nb 1)	8
Total (3wkts, 37.5 overs)	173

R Singh, †N R Mongia, J Srinath, R K Chauhan, D Mohanty and S V Bahutule did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-26, 3-94

BOWLING: Vaas 7-1-19-1, P A de Silva 7.5-0-31-0; Muralitharan 7-0-49-1, Dharmasena 5-0-24-0; Jayasuriya 8-0-29-0; Chandana 3-0-20-0

Man-of-match: R Singh (India)

Umpires: B Murali and Gindharan

Tour match

South Africa Schools Colts v England Under-19

PORT ELIZABETH (England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 beat South Africa Schools Colts by 28 runs

ENGLAND

S D Peters c Tsolekile b Van Wyk	23
R W T Key c Ngam b Bosch	8
I N Flanagan c Puttick b Petersen	23
*O A Shah run out	6
G P Swann c & b Petersen	47
G R Haywood c de Nobrega b Petersen	29
J C Powell c Tsolekile b Bosch	17
C P Schofield not out	35
P J Franks c Makalima b Bosch	0
†N J Wilton c Tsolekile b Bosch	9
J O Grove not out	19
Extras (b 4, lb 17, w 26, nb 2)	49
Total (9wkts, 50 overs)	285

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-50, 3-60, 4-140, 5-162, 6-194, 7-202, 8-202, 9-221

BOWLING: Van Wyk 9-0-57-1; Ngam 9-0-41-0, Bosch 10-1-45-4, Petersen 10-1-52-3, de Nobrega 10-0-38-0; Makalima 2-0-10-0

SOUTH AFRICA SCHOOLS COLTS

A Puttick c Peters b Haywood	9
[illegible] c Franks b Grove	25
C Biggs c Wilton b Schofield	26
[illegible] run out	57
C [illegible] c Schofield	11
D [illegible] b Powell	[illegible]
K Petersen c Grove b Powell	[illegible]
†T Tsolekile c & b Powell	[illegible]
S Bosch run out	[illegible]
P van Wyk not out	1
M Ngam not out	5
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 12, nb 2)	22
Total (9wkts, 50 overs)	237

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-46, 3-84, 4-105, 5-184, 6-199, 7-200, 8-202, 9-205

BOWLING: Grove 9-1-55-1; Franks 10-2-37-0; Haywood 7-2-18-1; Schofield 10-3-27-2; Swann 7-0-52-0; Powell 7-0-40-3

Umpires: E Scholtz and D O'Reilly

BRISBANE: Tour match (final day of four): South Africans 458-9 dec and 220-7 dec (D J Cullinan 83); Australia A 330 and 122-1 (M J Slater 64 not out)

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): In Hobart: Victoria 180-9 dec and 348; *Tasmania 130 and 401-3 (D T Hills 205, J Cox 95)*. In Adelaide: South Australia 386 and 168 (G Robertson 5-37) v New South Wales 519 and 18-0

NEW DELHI: Women's World Cup: India 81, South Africa 80.

CYCLING

TIME-TRIALS: Fullarton Wheelers (Irvine, Scotland, 10 miles): 1, G Obree (unatt) 19min 48sec (event record); 2, P Rennie (Paisley RT) 22:33; 3, A Hay (unatt) 22:52. Team: Ayr RCC 1:14.17. Bernesbury CC (Seaton Burn, Tyne and Wear, 10 miles): 1, *H Walker (GS Metro) 22:05; 2, C Herbert (Cestria CC) 23:28;* 3, J Waugh (GS Metro) 23:40. Border CA (Bentley, Hampshire, 10 miles): 1, T Bassford (Twickenham CC) 21:10 (event record); 2, C Birch (Alton RC) 21:13; 3, P Pickup (Festival RC) 21:24. Manchester and District TTA (Gawsworth, Cheshire, 25 miles): 1, I Cooke (JE James RT) 56:43; 2, K Murray (Army TTT) 58:02; 3, T Horton (Halifax RC) 1:00:00. Team: Westmead Team '88 (fastest third rider) 1:04.24.

ROAD RACES: Twickenham CC Winter Series (Hillingdon, 45 kilometres): 1, J Streather (Tunstall Wheelers) 54:40; 2, D Baker (Welwyn Wheelers); equal 3, P Swettenham (Cannons) and A Leach (Team Quest) all same time.

CYCLO-CROSS: Beeston RC (Bramcote Park, Nottingham, 10 miles): 1, D Baker (Team GT) 49:30; 2, T Gould (Schwinn-Toyota) at 3sec; 3, N Craig (Diamond Back) at 2:35. Royal Dean Forest CC (Coleford, Gloucestershire, 10 miles): 1, S Knight (Peugeot 406) 1.04:14; 2, G Richardson (Team Sabre) at 2:07; 3, J Richardson (Sports Coaching) at 5:42. East Grinstead CC (Deers Leap Park, 11 miles): 1, R Young (Sutton and Croydon Offroad Club) 52:01; 2, B Curtis (Corndon) at 2:43; 3, S Bayliss (Sutton and Croydon OC) at 2:57. MTS Cycle Sport (Bearpark, Durham, 11 miles): 1, D Howard (Cleveland MBC) 52:00; 2, R Noble (Derwentside CC) at 30sec; 3, J Stow (GA Cycles) at 59sec. Moseley St Joseph's CRT (Boggart Hole Clough, Manchester, 18 kilometres): 1, S Green (Oldham Century RC) 1:01:08; 2, M Ellis (Atom Elite RT) at 1:29; 3, P Whatmough (ABC Centreville) at 3:58. Witham Wheelers (Stroxton, near Grantham, 11 miles): 1, D Barnett (Bikepark-Raleigh) 1:00:34; 2, C Thompson (Elmy Cycles) at 1:51; 3, S Barron (VC Lincoln) at 2:27. Sowerby Bridge CC (Friendly West Yorkshire, 8 miles): 1, D Maloney (Middridge CRT) 45.10; 2, C Hawsby (Bradford Olympic RC) at 30sec; 3, M Collins (Huddersfield Star Wheelers) at 1:50

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: International showjumping championships: Father Christmas Stakes: 1, Burg's Samantha (B Romp, Holl) 0faults, 30.92sec; 2, San Patrignano Humphy (F Sloothaak, Ger) 0, 31.14; 3, Nissan *Carthago 2 (J Lansink, Holl) 4, 32.71.* Christmas Eve Six Bar: Equal 1, Domina III (W Melliger, Switz) and Lionel (R Hoekstra, GB) 0faults; 3, Carat II (J-M Nicolas, Fr) 4. *Christmas Hamper: 1, Dolly (P Charles, Ire)* 41.98; 2, Ramska (O Lampard, GB) 43.18; 3, Loro Piana Wenda (R Pessoa, Br) 43.52. NPS Baileys Horse Feeds Ridden Mountain and Moorland Champion: H E Prescott's Rannoch of Traltrow; Reserve: Mr and Mrs R B Sutcliffe's Derrenvale Jason.

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Humberside 6 Nottinghamshire 1. Under-16: Humberside 0 Nottinghamshire 2; Hampshire 3 Dorset 2

Sunday's late results

ITALIAN LEAGUE: AC Milan 0 Bologna 0. Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	13	9	3	1	29	13	30
Juventus	13	8	5	0	31	11	29
Udinese	13	8	2	3	26	22	26
Parma	13	7	4	2	24	10	25
Roma	13	6	5	2	24	14	23
Lazio	13	6	3	4	20	13	21
Fiorentina	13	5	5	3	28	15	20
Milan	13	5	5	3	17	12	20
Sampdoria	13	5	4	4	22	25	19
Vicenza	13	5	3	5	17	25	18
Brescia	13	4	2	7	17	22	14
Empoli	13	4	1	8	19	26	13

SPANISH LEAGUE: Tenerife 0 Real Sociedad 0; Real Madrid 2 Espanol 1.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hamburg SV 0 Hansa Rostock 1.

CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Final: Brazil 6 Australia 0 (at Riyadh).

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Final, second leg: Vasco da Gama 0 Palmeiras 0 (0-0 on agg: Vasco win on superior overall record).

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Velez Sarsfield 4 Gimnasia y Esgrima 1; Newell's Old Boys 1 Racing Club 1; Independiente 2 Ferrocarril Oeste 0; Gimnasia de Jujuy 2 Rosario Central 3; Colon 2 Lanus 1; Argentinos Juniors 1 River Plate 1, Platense 2 Gimnasia y Tiro 1; Boca Juniors 4 Union 0. San Lorenzo v Huracan (match abandoned after 22min)

HOCKEY

KIDDERMINSTER: Midlands indoor club championship: Play-offs: Khalsa 3 Barford Tigers 6; Barford Tigers 8 Harborne 2; Harborne 5 Stourport 8; Khalsa 6 Stourport 4; Harborne 13 Khalsa 5; Barford Tigers 8 Stourport 7. Final positions: 1, Barford Tigers 9pts; 2, Stourport 3; 3, Harborne 3; 4, Khalsa 3 (Barford Tigers and Stourport qualify for preliminary rounds of EHA Indoor Cup).

LARKHILL: West Indoor club championship: Semi-finals: West Wilts 5 Isca 8, Royal Artillery 2 Bath Buccaneers 2 (Bath won 2-1 on pens). Final: Isca 6 Bath Buccaneers 3 (Isca and Bath qualify for preliminary round of EHA Indoor Club).

ALDENHAM SCHOOL: East Super Indoor League: Final positions: 1, Old Loughtonians 18pts; 2, St Albans 11; 3, Chelmsford 11; 4, Dunton Engineering 10; 5, Blueharts 4; 6, Spalding 4; 7, Ipswich 1

MEN'S SCOTTISH NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: First division: Menzieshill 5 Wanderers 7; Western 2 MIM 7; Grange 9 Inverleith 5; Clydesdale 9 Gordonians 7; Wanderers 6 Western 5; MIM 4 Menzieshill 6; Inverleith 1 Clydesdale 5; Gordonians 5 Grange 8.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 2 New York Rangers 0; San Jose 4 Anaheim 2.

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles 6 Bracknell Bees 0; Cardiff Devils 7 Manchester Storm 1; Newcastle Cobras 2 Sheffield Steelers 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	17	9	5	3	73	53	22
Ayr	15	9	5	1	58	41	21
Nottingham	17	9	5	2	59	49	20
Sheffield	16	8	6	2	62	50	19
Cardiff	14	7	5	2	49	43	17
Bracknell	16	7	8	1	48	62	16
Basingstoke	15	4	8	3	47	59	12
Newcastle	17	3	14	0	35	74	7

REAL TENNIS

LORD'S: World title: First eliminator: J Snow (GB) beat C Bray (GB) 6-2.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Third leg: Fremantle to Sydney. Final positions: 1, EF Language (Swe) finished at 14.39GMT; 2, Swedish Match (Swe) 14.44; 3, Chessie Racing (US) 14.45; 4, Merit Cup (Monaco) 14.47; 5, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 14.49; 6, Toshiba (US) 15.00; 7, Silk Cut (GB) 15.05; 8, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 15.30; 9, EF Education (Swe) 16.17. Overall positions: 1, EF Language 302pts; 2, Innovation Kvaerner 267; 3, Swedish Match 253; 4, Merit Cup 228; 5, Chessie Racing 213; 6, Silk Cut 206; 7, Toshiba 207; 8, EF Education 80; 9, BrunelSunergy 66.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

DR MARTENS CUP: Second round: Clevedon v Forest Green

RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members Cup: Second round: Basingstoke v Kingstonian; Boreham Wood v Aylesbury, Hampton v Maidenhead, Hendon v St Albans. Associate Members Trophy: Second round: Lewes v Horsham. Third division: Epsom and Ewell v Aveley

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Postponed: Luton v West Ham.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group four: Stockport v Chesterfield (at Hyde United FC, 7.0). Group six: Rotherham v Tranmere (7.0).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v AFC Newbury.

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William v Forres Mechanics; Fraserburgh v Buckie Thistle (8.0); Lossiemouth v Huntly (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle Cobras v Nottingham Panthers (7.0); Bracknell Bees v Manchester Storm (8.0). Express Cup: Basingstoke Bison v Cardiff Devils (7.30)

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DECEMBER 23 199

cashing in
hile clubs
high price

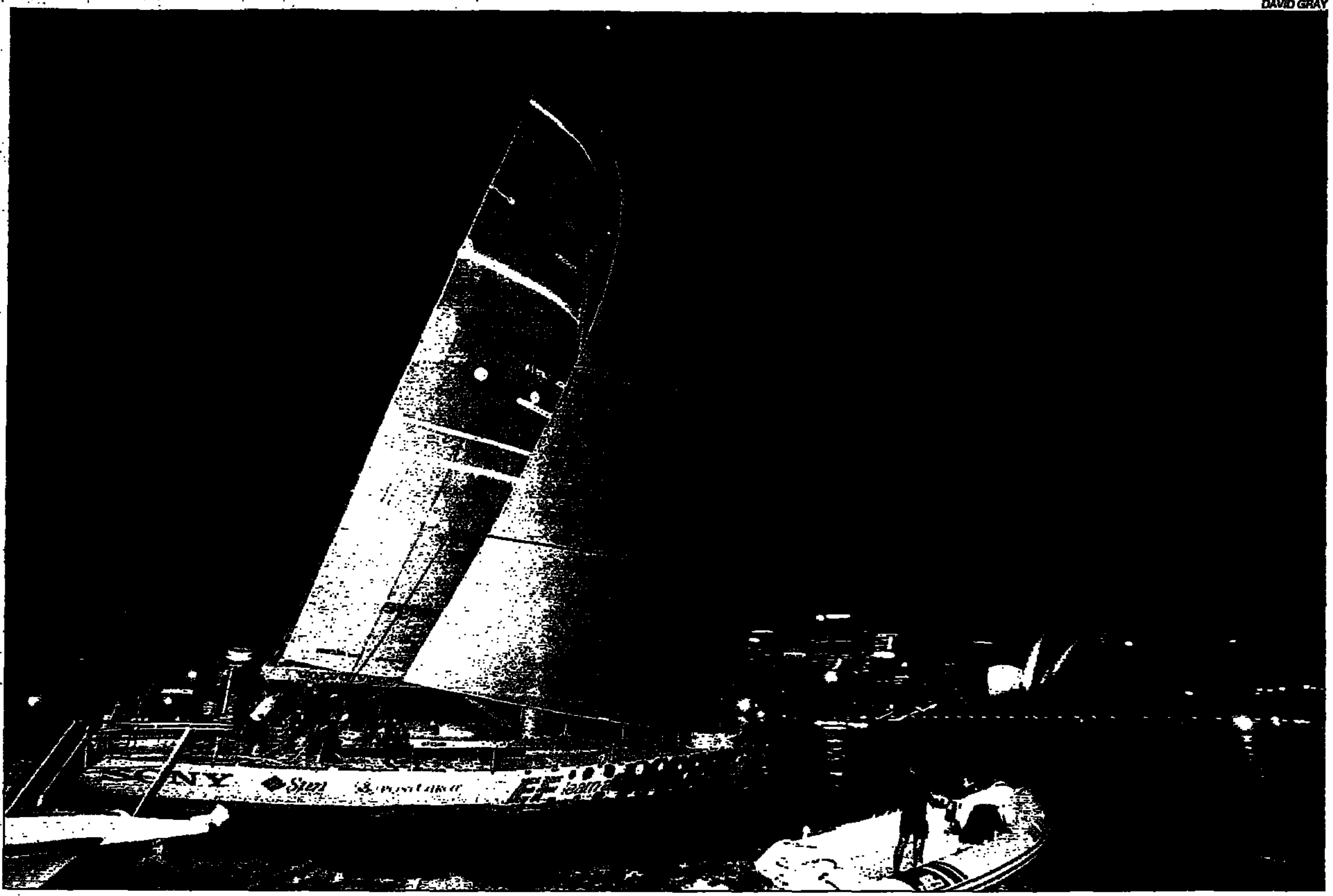
ROB HUGHES

EF Language confirms increasing dominance and looks likely overall winner

Cayard more than a match in tight finish

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

DAVID GRAY



EF Language sails into Sydney harbour to give Paul Cayard, the skipper, his second win in three legs after a thrilling race in which only ten minutes separated five boats

NEVER before have so many boats finished a Whitbread Round the World Race leg in such a tight order as last night when Paul Cayard, on *EF Language*, led a charge for the line off the Sydney Opera House to win his second leg in three starts and confirm his increasing dominance in this race.

After an agonisingly close nine-day contest from Fremantle, the first five boats finished the 2,250-mile course in the space of just ten minutes. *Swedish Match*, the second leg winner skippered by Gunnar Krantz, who was overtaken by Cayard within a few miles of the finish, was second, five minutes behind the Swedish boat. Then came George Collins on *Chessie Racing* a minute later, Grant Dalton on *Merit Cup* a further two minutes back and Knut Frostad on *Innovation Kvaerner* after another two minutes.

While Cayard was able to celebrate a potentially race-winning lead, Great Britain's Lawrie Smith and his young crew on *Silk Cut* were coming to terms with what appears to be a mortal blow to their hopes of taking overall honours, or even a place in the top three.

Going into the last 12 hours of the leg, Smith was third as the yachts roared up the New South Wales coast, driven by a strong south-westerly breeze. According to Smith, they blew a spinnaker and also picked a course too close to the shore, finding themselves slipping backthrough the fleet.

If they had finished third, the *Silk Cut* team would have been fourth overall in Sydney and just 40 points behind Cayard. But the points system, which has given Smith comfort for his two fourth places, dealt the Lymington-based skipper a cruel hand. Finishing the leg in seventh position, 26 minutes behind Cayard, has dropped him to sixth overall, a full 98 points behind the Californian.

"I suppose I am more upset than Grant [Dalton]," a deflated Smith said. "It was a very close leg and *Silk Cut*, *Toshiba* and *Chessie* in the north were looking very good at times. We got into third place and were a little bit unlucky that the wind came in from behind. In the last 100 miles we screwed up, breaking a sail, and we were too close inshore. When the boats are close and you are a little off the pace, you come seventh, not third." Given the pre-race form guide, it is hard to believe that Smith is already so far down the pack after just a third of the nine legs. It must be particularly galling for him that Cayard, in a boat Smith prepared before he abandoned Team EF, is now sweeping all before him.

Cayard, meanwhile, was delighted to emerge again at the front after a difficult leg when he and his navigator, Mark Rudiger, were rarely out of the top three. "It's a nice spot to be in here, one-third of the way through," he said. "I think the guys are doing real good. We're all really into the short-term, intensity-type sailing and it was a good leg for that."

Cayard added that he believes his boat is a good performer in a variety of conditions and had benefited from Smith's input. "He picked it," Cayard noted.

Dalton arrived relieved not to be in Smith's shoes but realistic about his chances in the remainder of the race. The Auckland-based skipper has become convinced that his boat is slow by about 0.3knots in moderate upwind conditions and is beginning to think he chose the wrong hull of the two designed for him by Bruce Farr.

Dalton is now fourth overall, 74 points behind Cayard, but admits catching him will be difficult. "I've always felt we'd get the measure of *Kvaerner* and *Swedish Match*, but beating *EF Language* is going be hard," he said.

Dalton is impressed by the overall standard in this small, high-quality fleet. "The girls [*EF Education*] are sailing really well. If they were in the last race they would have won it on this form," he said. Among other disapppointed skippers will have been Britain's Paul Standbridge, seventh overall in *Toshiba*, who had his crew well up in the running for much of the leg, only to see it all go wrong towards the end, again partly as a result of blowing a spinnaker and getting too close to the shore on the run up the coast.

Standings, page 36

SWIMMING

Smith out of world title race

By Craig Lord

MICHELLE SMITH, the triple Olympic champion, has withdrawn from the world championships in Perth, Australia, next month because she has not recovered completely from a whiplash injury sustained in a car crash last October.

Smith, 28, whose spectacular improvement at a late stage in a long career made her the most controversial figure of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, said yesterday that the accident, in County Carlow on Hallowe'en night, had ruined her preparation.

The decision to miss the world championships, from January 8 to 18, was taken after a disappointing performance in Bordeaux, France, last weekend.

Smith, who now competes under her married name of De Bruin, said the decision had been "pure heartache" for her. "Since Atlanta, these championships (Perth) have been my main focus — but the injuries I received at the end of October have put paid to that dream," she said. "My training has been severely curtailed since then and this weekend's tournament in Bordeaux made it clear how badly that has affected me."

Smith won the 200 metres and 400 metres medley and 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta and was third in the 200 metres butterfly. In Bordeaux last weekend, she swam the 200 metres medley in 2min 26sec, about 13sec slower than her Olympic-winning time.

There have been serious doubts about Smith's ability to repeat her Atlanta achievements after poor performances at the European championships in Spain in August.

Wu Yanyan and Chen Yan, of China, last month broke the 200 metres and 400 metres world medley records, respectively swimming 4sec and 5sec faster than Smith's best efforts in Atlanta. Having taken 17sec off her best time for the 400 metres medley in little more than two seasons, Smith would be hard pressed to find much more.

However, Smith obviously has no thoughts of retiring. She confirmed yesterday her intention to defend her Olympic titles in Sydney in 2000.

RUGBY UNION: LEADING CLUBS HAMSTRUNG BY LACK OF SPECTATOR CAPACITY AT TRADITIONAL HOMES

Enhanced facilities vital to secure Bath's future

David Hands, rugby correspondent, says there is big money *to be made in Europe but most British sides are handicapped*

THE contrast could not have been more stark: 27,000 Frenchmen crammed the Stade de Toulouse on Sunday to watch the local club battle with Brive for a place in the Heineken Cup final whereas, 24 hours earlier, 8,500 had been shoehorned into the Bath Recreation Ground — many of them with an indifferent view — to watch Bath's semi-final with Pau.

There is a tournament of immense potential waiting to be unleashed within European rugby but only in France are they uniformly equipped to cope with it. The municipal stadiums common to French towns, which host a wide range of sports, make most of the grounds where rugby is accommodated in England look threadbare.

Only Leicester, and those clubs which have done a deal with football clubs, stand comparison and the situation in the other three home unions is even worse.

Rugby, within a very limited parameter, has the capability of producing crowds which would go a long way towards making a professional game sustainable. But very few of the clubs concerned have the necessary number of seats available.

Bath's situation is particularly poignant. More than any other club they have dominated the English scene, but at a venue which they are not allowed to develop beyond its present capacity, and this in a season where they play in the European final for the first time.

Tony Swift, the former England wing who is now their chief executive, paints a grim picture of what could happen if Bath are not allowed to grow. He perceives four options: development of the Recreation Ground, which would affect the playing of cricket, hockey, lacrosse, croquet and tennis; development of an alternative stadium within the city; removal to a site outside Bath; or decline to third or fourth-division status.

Yet this is a situation with which Bath have wrestled for years, and are still no nearer a solution. "We can't afford to wait another five or six years, the game is moving forward too quickly for that," Swift said. "The thing that nags at me is not knowing where we are going, because it means we can't manage effectively. My job is to look at the commercial viability of the club and to tell the shareholders, in particular Andrew Brownsword, the owner, where we stand. But I don't know whether, in the next few years, I'm looking at improvements to the Rec, moving outside the city or what. If we knew we had a future at a decent stadium in Bath, we would be able to get on with development schemes in schools and the community as a whole which, at present, we can't."

Swift: fears for future

It is impossible to quantify what Bath's success has meant to trade in the city over the past 15 years, but it runs to millions of pounds a year, if the money spent by visitors, the free advertising, and branding is taken into account. Much of that has to do with the Rec's city-centre location but, for all the improvements made over the last five years, the ground remains quaint by comparison with the facilities of leading French clubs.

"The reason I'm raising the issue now is not as some form of blackmail but because we do need to find an answer," Swift said. "We need to sit down with the council and find out where we stand."

There has been discussion of development on derelict ground within the city, which would be a costly exercise, or the removal to a football stadium — the nearest being in Bristol or Swindon.

"Every bone in my body would react against taking this club away from the city of Bath," Swift said. "But ultimately the club employs a lot of people, 80 or 90 players, coaches and administrative staff, and I have to protect their position."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have admired the huge effort the men of the Correze made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on tries scored — in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

☐ Saracens are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

Operation rules Loader out for season

CHRISTIAN LOADER, the Swansea and Wales prop, is to have a neck operation this week that will rule him out for the rest of the season. Loader, 24 and capped 19 times, was injured playing against New Zealand last month. He also had to return home early from the tour of North America last summer, but there is no long-term threat to his career.

Brian Johnson, the Newbury wing, has the chance to clinch a permanent move to Kingsholm on Saturday when he plays for Gloucester against Richmond in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Johnson, 25, the Army captain, is on loan to the club, who want to sign him on a full-time basis.

He replaces the injured Raphael Saint-Andre against Richmond. Philippe Saint-Andre is also out with a thigh injury sustained while leading France against South Africa, but Dave Sims returns to the Gloucester second row.

CRICKET: FORMER SPINNER PROMOTED AT THE OVAL AS ENGLAND SELECTOR MOVES NORTH IN COACHING ROLE

Durham sign Gooch as batting adviser

By Our Sports Staff

GRAHAM GOOCH has joined Durham as a consultant and batting coach for next season. Gooch, manager of the England A team that starts a three-month tour of Kenya and Sri Lanka in January, will join the county for pre-season training in early April.

"Helping Durham to develop its team and local talent to be more successful fits in with the aim of improving the England team," the England selector and former captain said. "The success achieved at Essex was based on good youth development policies and I am sure that is the way forward for Durham."

David Boon, the Durham captain, praised Gooch's appointment. "The club and team will benefit from Graham's input," he said. "It is excellent that the club has been able to secure his services on a regular basis."

England Under-19 secured the first victory of their tour by beating South African Schools Colts by 28 runs in a one-day game at Zwide yesterday. Graeme Swann scored 47, including four sixes in one over from the off-spinner, Kevin Petersen, in England's 265 for nine.

Swann was later on the receiving end of some fierce hitting by Dumisa Makalima, who struck him over mid-wicket for six four times in the fortieth over.

India defeated South Africa by five wickets in Patna yesterday to set up a meeting with Australia in the semi-finals of the women's World Cup. The host nation bowled South Africa out for 80 and reached their target in 28 overs.

Medlycott takes over Surrey first-team role

By Simon Wilde

SURREY announced yesterday that Keith Medlycott, their second XI coach, will take charge of first-team affairs next season in succession to David Gilbert, who left three months ago to become director of coaching at Sussex.

Medlycott, one of several recent spinners whose careers foundered at the Oval, has been appointed for three years on a full-time basis, which means that he will not go back to Northern Transvaal, the team he coaches in the winter, once he returns to England in late March.

Surrey quickly thought again after Allan Border, the former Australia captain, turned down the club because of other commitments, including coaching the Australia Under-19 team in the Youth World Cup next month.

Vic Dodds, chairman of Surrey's cricket committee, said yesterday: "Keith has had a good grounding for the job. He is Surrey through and through. Several of our boys made it clear that Keith was the man they wanted. Adam Hollioake [the captain] always thought Keith was the right man for the job. The main problem was persuading him to give up his good lifestyle in South Africa."

Medlycott, 32, toured the Caribbean with England eight years ago. His career came to a premature and embarrassing end, though, when he was afflicted by one of the worst known cases of the "yips" and within 18 months had played his last first-team match. Last summer he led Surrey to the second XI one-day trophy.

Tendulkar turns the tables on Sri Lanka

By Our Sports Staff

INDIA, still smarting from losing their three games in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah this month, answered their critics yesterday by comfortably accounting for Sri Lanka, the World Cup holders, in the first of a three-match one-day international series.

Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, stroked a delightful 82 not out off 86 balls as India easily overhauled Sri Lanka's modest total of 172 for nine. India won by seven wickets, reaching their target off only 37.5 overs in a match reduced to 45 overs a side after morning fog in Guwahati, India.

Tendulkar, who put on 68 for the third wicket with Navjot Sidhu, scored his 1,000th run in one-day internationals for the season. However, Robin Singh, the all-rounder, was named man of the match after taking five for 22, the best figures of his career. "Recently we've not had a good time," Tendulkar said. "It's very important that we get support and that we stick together as a team."

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, said: "We played very badly — we didn't bat well and we didn't bowl or field well."

India had made six changes from Sharjah, with Anil Kumble, the spinner, and the batsman Rahul Dravid among those omitted.

Debasish Mohanty, a medium-pace bowler, dismissed Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu and Aravinda de Silva as Sri Lanka struggled to 30 for three after being sent in. Only a defiant 68 by Roshan Mahanama enabled them to reach a reasonable total.

EQUESTRIANISM

Charles rules as Dolly takes up challenge

By Jenny MacArthur

PETER CHARLES, of Ireland, the former European champion, brought the final afternoon of the Olympia championships to a stirring conclusion yesterday when he and his French-bred mare, Dolly, won the Eurosport Christmas Hamper after a breathtaking round against the clock.

Charles, who adopted Irish nationality in 1992 after being told he had no chance of making Britain's Olympic team, admitted he could not have gone any faster round the ten-fence course. "I watched Ludger [Beerbaum] and decided he had won enough this week," he said.

Beerbaum, the European champion, who relegated Charles to second place in the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday, had the disadvantage of going first on this occasion. His time of 44.27sec was beaten by Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, in 43.52sec on Loro Piana Wanda, and then by Britain's Di Lampard on Flaminka in 43.18sec.

Charles, one of the last to ride, was giving Dolly — a horse more usually associated with grands prix and Nations cups — her first real test in this type of speed class. "Olympia is her last show for two months, so I knew she could have a good rest afterwards," he said.

The versatile mare responded with a gloriously uninhibited display of jumping, turning to the last fence with barely a stride before take-off, to finish in 41.98sec. "I asked her all the questions and she came up with all the answers," Charles said, "but I wouldn't drop her down to this level too often — she's too good a horse."

While the British selectors rue a lost talent, the Hampshire-based Charles said he had "not the slightest regret" about his defection to Ireland. Now the mainstay of the Irish team, he has one of the most envied strings in the sport.

In addition to Dolly, it includes seven-year-olds Nustria, whose display of jumping in the Volvo World Cup was one of the highlights of the week, and Carnavelly, who was third in the Paris Grand Prix last month; T'Aime, aged 9, the winner of more than £80,000 this year; and La Ina, the 1995 European champion, who has recovered from a leg injury sustained last summer. "I wouldn't swap any of them," Charles said.

Earlier, Britain's Rob Hoekstra gained his first success at Olympia when he and Lionel, his American-bred former racehorse, were joint winners of the Christmas Eve Six Bar with Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, on Domina. Both riders were clear in the fifth and final round when the last fence stood at 6ft 4in.

Beerbaum: disadvantage

Melliger, the Olympic silver medal-winner on Calvaro, had never tested Domina over this height. The German-bred mare, aged 9, has had two foals and has only been showjumping for two years. But Domina has courage, as she showed on Sunday when she finished joint third in the Vink Christmas Masters, and yesterday, when the mare, the first to go in the final round, soared effortlessly over the four fences.

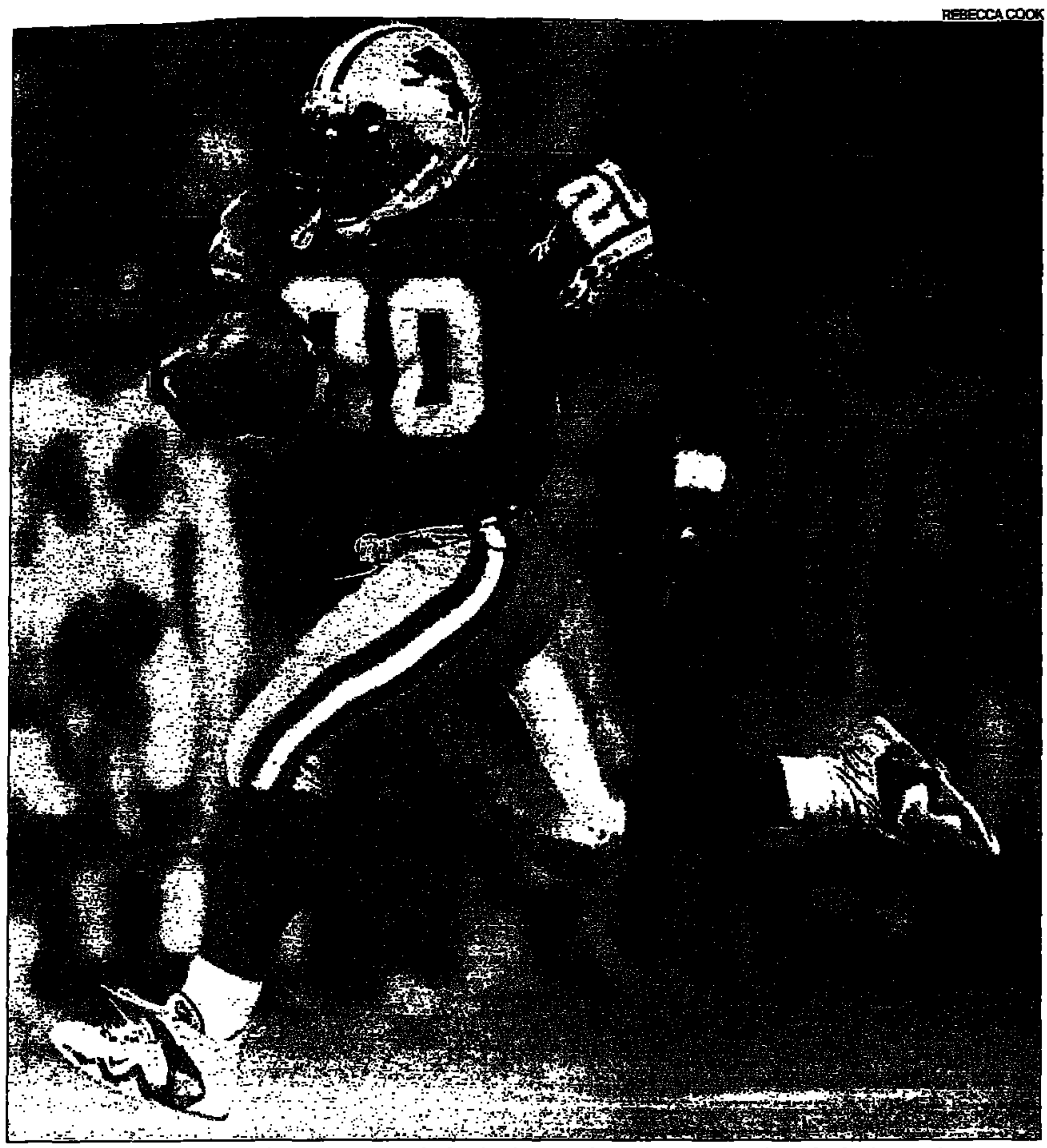
The Dutch-born Hoekstra, who is based at Speldhurst in Kent, had intended to run Lionel in the Grand Prix yesterday, but, as the horse is not fast against the clock, decided he would have more chance in the Six Bar. "He's a versatile horse with plenty of scope, but he jumps best when going slowly," he said.

That was soon evident. Hoekstra had the partisan Olympia crowd gasping in disbelief as he approached the huge line of fences at no more than a hand canter. But Lionel, who jumped seven foot in the puissance events in Madrid and Biarritz this year, skimmed down the line, clearing the last with inches to spare, to loud applause.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: RUNNING BACK'S RECORD ENDS FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK

Sanders seals play-off place

Oliver Holt enjoys the countdown as final weekend throws up a thrilling duel


REBECCA COOK

Sanders, the Lions running back, becomes only the third man to break the 2.000-yard barrier in the regular season

AMERICAN sport has made a fine art of saving the best for last. From buzzer-beaters in the final few frantic seconds of the deciding game of basketball's NBA finals to a home run in the final inning of the World Series in baseball, it has all been done. On Sunday, gridiron came up with the goods, too, when the last weekend of the regular season duly produced its most dramatic game so far.

The Detroit Lions and the New York Jets were playing for high stakes at the Pontiac Silverdome. A place in the play-offs for either team hinged on the result and sentimentalists everywhere were willing on the fairytale ending and hoping that the Jets could complete one of the most spectacular transitions ever seen in the space of 12 months by making it to the post-season.

In the end, though, it was a different kind of fairytale that came true in Michigan. This was a home-town story, another mark in those sporting history books in which American statisticians are so fond of scribbling, a record whose worth transcends the weekly craze for establishing new targets of excellence in the National Football League (NFL).

Barry Sanders, the Detroit running back, had started the game needing 131 rushing yards to become only the third player in the history of the sport to run for 2,000 yards in a regular season.

Only O. J. Simpson, who did it for the Buffalo Bills in 1973, and Eric Dickerson, of the Los Angeles Rams, who set the record in 1984, had achieved it in the past.

The Jets, who won only one of their 16 games last season and were the laughing stock of the league before their new coach, Bill Parcells, brought about such a startling change, went into an early 10-0 lead and with Sanders stuck on only 23 yards late in the third quarter, it seemed it was going to be New York's day.

But then Sanders, who is sure to be one of the leading candidates for the NFL Most Valuable Player award, broke free for a 47-yard run and scored with a 15-yard touchdown scramble a couple of plays later.

He broke the 2,000-yard barrier with an unspectacular two-yard run up the middle with just two minutes of the game to go and his team hanging on to the 13-10 advantage that was to be the final score. "It's hard to explain what it means to me," Sanders said. "There's gratification, satisfaction, and not just for me but for everybody.

"I'm just lucky I'm the one carrying the ball with some great guys blocking for me. It is a great achievement for all of us and now we just have to do what we can in the play-offs."

The victory, though, was marred for the Lions by a fourth-quarter head injury to their linebacker, Reggie Brown, who was left lying on the field unconscious after a jarring collision during a tackle. "I think everybody would give up the game and the 2,000 yards if we could have Reggie healthy," Jeff Hardings, a Detroit offensive lineman said.

The Lions' victory squeezed them into the first round of the play-offs where they will meet the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Florida next Sunday. The Buccaneers, one of the surprise teams of the season, clinched their place in the sun with a 31-15 win over the Chicago Bears that salvaged a season that seemed to be turning sour after a marvellous start.

The Jets' loss handed wildcard places to the Miami Dolphins and the New England Patriots, who played each other late last night at the former Joe Robbie Stadium and will meet again in the play-offs next Sunday. Last night's victors will have secured home-field advantage for next weekend's meeting.

The strongest teams in both the National and American Football Conferences, the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs respectively, both won convincingly. For the Packers, their victory over the Bills was not enough to wrest home-field advantage throughout the play-offs from the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC. The way the 49ers have been playing recently, though — they lost 38-9 to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday night — the honour may pass to Green Bay sooner rather than later anyway.

The Chiefs' win over the New Orleans Saints at least ensured they would play all their post-season matches at Arrowhead Stadium and despite the encouraging late-season form of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, they will be the favourites to join the Packers in the Super Bowl in San Diego on January 25.

The match between the Lions and the Jets, Barry Sanders and all, will take some beating but the NFL is bound to try.

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Cincinnati 16 Baltimore 14; Tampa Bay 31 Chicago 15; Minnesota 39 Indianapolis 28; Kansas City 25 New Orleans 13; New York Giants 20 Dallas 7; Washington 35 Philadelphia 32; Tennessee 16 Pittsburgh 6; Arizona 29 Atlanta 26; Jacksonville 20 Oakland 9; Detroit 13 New York Jets 10; Denver 38 San Diego 3; Seattle 38 San Francisco 9

Not including last night's match: Miami v New England

* division title † play-off place

American Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
† New England	9	6	0	355	277
† Miami	9	6	0	327	313
NY Jets	9	7	0	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	0	255	367
Indianapolis	3	13	0	313	401

Central division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* Pittsburgh	11	5	0	372	307
† Jacksonville	11	5	0	394	318
Tennessee	8	8	0	333	310
Cincinnati	7	9	0	355	405
Baltimore	6	9	1	326	345

Western division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* Kansas City	13	3	0	375	232
† Denver	12	4	0	472	287
Seattle	8	8	0	365	362
Oakland	4	12	0	324	419
San Diego	4	12	0	266	425

National Conference

Eastern division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* NY Giants	10	5	1	307	265
Washington	8	7	1	327	289
Philadelphia	6	9	1	317	372
Dallas	6	10	0	304	314
Arizona	4	12	0	283	379

Central division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* Green Bay	13	3	0	422	282
† Tampa Bay	10	6	0	299	263
† Detroit	9	7	0	379	306
† Minnesota	9	7	0	354	359
Chicago	4	12	0	263	421

Western division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
* San Francisco	13	3	0	375	265
Carolina	7	9	0	265	314
Atlanta	7	9	0	320	361
New Orleans	6	10	0	237	327
St Louis	5	11	0	299	359

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	35	75	good	crusty	good	fair	1	21/12
(Generally good skiing with most lifts open)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	0	75	hard	heavy	worn	cloud	2	22/12
(Fresh snow but quite wet and heavy)								
Mayrhofen	0	75	good	heavy	closed	cloud	4	22/12
(Snow in good shape on both mountains above 1,600m)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	60	140	good	varied	good	fine	-1	20/12
(Very good skiing in all areas except Auris)								
Avoriaz	70	85	good	powder	good	sun	-3	21/12
(Great skiing and snow above 1,800m)								
Méribel	25	40	fair	poor	art	sun	-3	20/12
(Rocks poking through on most pistes: snow needed)								
Tignes	50	145	good	varied	good	sun	-4	21/12
(Soft powder snow on many pistes)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	200	good	powder	good	fine	0	21/12
(Excellent skiing on all pistes)								
Livigno	85	140	good	powder	good	fine	-4	21/12
(Excellent skiing on nearly all runs)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	60	80	good	powder	good	sun	0	22/12
(Near perfect conditions at the moment)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

AMPELOPSIS

(c) A genus of climbing plants allied to the vine. (With small initial) a plant of this genus, as one of the various species of Virginia creeper. From the Greek *ampelos* a vine + *opsis* appearance. Compton Mackenzie, *Sinister Street*, 1914: "The tea-tray gothic of Balliol, and Trinity with its municipal ampelopsis."

FARTLEK

(c) A method of training for middle- and long-distance running, in which the athlete runs over country, mixing fast with slow work. From the Swedish *fart* speed + *lek* play. "The essence of a successful fartlek session is enjoyment in hard but varying work."

GODBUSH

(c) A Jamaican name for several plants of the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae. "But what interests me most in this place is a flourishing Misseltoe, or God-bush, as the negroes call it."

BIDON

(c) A container for liquids. Specifically, a wooden cup, a bottle or canteen for water or wine, or an oil drum or petrol tin. Hence *bidonville*, a shanty-town built of oil drums or petrol tins. "Get the car filled up. Adèle left me two bidons for emergencies."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bf6! and mate with 2 Rd8+ and 3 Rh8 can only be prevented at ruinous material cost.

ICE HOCKEY

Storm feel the heat from Devils

By Norman de Mesquita

MANCHESTER Storm will go into the new year top of the Superleague, but only just. Beaten 7-1 by Cardiff Devils on Sunday, they have won only four of their past nine league games and the fine form they showed in their European League run is but a memory.

After a goalless first period, the Devils took a 2-0 lead in the second and scored a third goal in the first minute of the final session. The Storm's only goal came a minute later but it was Cardiff all the way from then on with four goals in 11 minutes, the last three while Manchester players were in the penalty box.

Ayr Scottish Eagles are the form team and are unbeaten in their past seven league and cup outings. A three-goal first period was the foundation for a 6-0 defeat of Bracknell Bees, with Rob Dopson saving all 25 shots that came his way for his first shut-out of the season. Mark Montanari was the Eagles' attacking inspiration, assisting on four goals.

The win took the Eagles into second place, a point behind the Storm, with two games in hand. Nottingham Panthers are a point further back in third.

Newcastle Cobras continue to languish in last place and completed another miserable weekend, beaten 4-2 by Sheffield Steelers, their third successive home defeat. The Cobras lost their first five league games, all away from home; they were expected to improve once they returned home, but that has not been the case.

TELEVISION CHOICE

His wonderful life

James Stewart — Last of the Good Guys
BBC2, 6.35pm

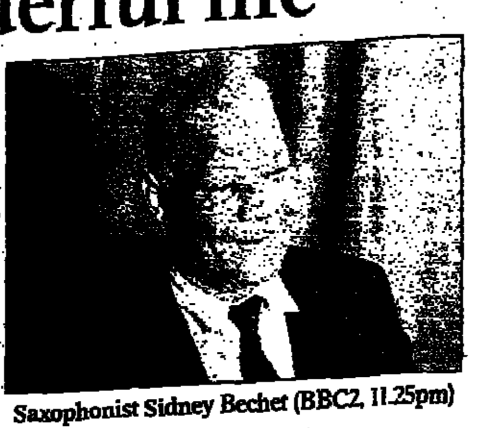
To coincide with the current season of his films on BBC and the cinema's rerelease of the much-loved *It's a Wonderful Life*, a profile of the man himself. Legend has it that Stewart once asked a doctor to inject something into his vocal cords to make his famous throaty drawl even throatier for that great Senate scene in *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*. "But I never believed it," says George C. Scott, one of many Hollywood luminaries paying tribute. "If he wasn't actor enough to do that what the hell was he doing after 80 pictures?" Jimmy Stewart died in July, aged 89, and this documentary, shot in his home town of Indiana, highlights the diversity of his roles — from western hero to psychopath to Mr Nice Guy. Clips are interlaced with the memories of co-stars, directors, and members of Stewart's own family.

The Pale Horse
ITV, 9.00pm

Oh good. An Agatha Christie for Christmas. Not too much violence, a plot to challenge the little grey cells and — thankfully with this one — no round-ups in the library of stately home guests by impossibly polite policemen. That said, this is not vintage Christie — rather more, in trying for a spot of trendiness (it's set in the Swinging Sixties) this is neither fish nor fowl. An amateur production of *Macbeth* sets the scene for a distinctly odd story about murder by auto-suggestion. Or so it would appear to the plucky hero (Colin Buchanan) who is trying to clear himself of the alleged murder of a priest. Said priest was carrying a list of names who were all about to face death . . . a coven of witches (Jean Marsh, Ruth Madoc and Maggie Shevlin) would seem to have much to answer for . . .

Secret Lives: Versace, the King of Excess
Channel 4, 9.30pm

What, when all is said and done in this exotic profile of the great designer, is so secret? We are still no nearer to learning the true identity of Gianni Versace's murderer in Miami last July. Some note that the FBI never followed up one classic clue: the two bullets to the back of the head and the dead bird found near the body are Mafia trademarks. We also learn that this absurdly rich and flamboyant Italian was under long-term investigations into alleged tax fraud and illicit ownership of state-owned antiquities. Where this documentary scores is not in its revelations and/or muckraking but in brilliantly tracing a rags-to-riches story: how a gay, sensitive young man from the mean streets of southern Italy became "the first designer superstar" or, as he himself put it, "half royalty, half rock 'n' roll".


Saxophonist Sidney Bechet (BBC2, 11.25pm)

Treat It Gentle: Sidney Bechet
BBC2 11.25pm

The arts strand riffs into a hat-trick of goodies for Christmas with a profile of the great jazz clarinettist and saxophonist Sidney Bechet. When Bechet died in 1959 more than 3,000 mourners attended his funeral in Juan-les-Pins. Yet at one time his reputation, along with those of other great pioneers of the New Orleans era, had faded almost from sight. When Woody Allen — no mean trad man himself — used Bechet's music (with his innovative soprano sax) on the soundtrack of his film *Stardust Memories* a new generation discovered Bechet. Allen is among those who pay tribute in this terrific celebration of Bechet's birth — 100 years ago in the red light district of New Orleans. Other musicians included Wynton Marsalis, Humphrey Lyttelton and Claude Luter, with contributions from Bechet's mistress, Jacqueline, and their son. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Food for Thought
Radio 5 Live, 8.00pm

One of the things I miss about no longer attending football grounds on a regular basis is the gloriously appalling food available at half-time. There is something deeply suspect about clubs that call in gastronomic geniuses to revise their fast food menus, for surely half the point of attending a football match is to sip hot Bovril and munch through a pie of dubious provenance. Cornish pasties at Plymouth Argyle (the food was better than the football) were my favourite and they turn up in this anthology of football ground food, in which Fergus Sweeney also samples Arbroath kippers and Bluenose burgers. There are rumours that after making the programme Sweeney will spend Christmas wearing a "nil by mouth" sign.

Performance on 3: Paris, City of Light
Radio 3, 7.45pm

I take the chance of recommending this live concert because it promises to be an interesting evocation of Paris, albeit that it evokes Paris only after a long and unsuccessful battle with those who control the Radio 3 budget: therefore the evening evokes Paris but comes from Edinburgh. The Queen's Hall, to be precise, and the music harks back to Paris in the 1920s. Tonight the highlights include out-and-out cabaret numbers by Poulenc and Kurt Weill, plus the work of two of the more distinguished Americans who were in Paris at the time, Cole Porter and George Gershwin. The performers are the singers Kim Criswell and Donald Maxwell, the pianist/conductor Wyn Davies, and the Chamber Ensemble. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **3.00pm** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** John Peel's Seasonal Selection **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs Live at the Zodiac **1.00am** Charlie Jordan **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** The Goon Show (r) **3.30** Richard Allinson **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** The Prohibition Years **9.30** Rabbi Lionel Blue's "Chatzmas" **10.30** Bob Harris **12.05am** Patrick Lunt **3.00** Katrina

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Peter Allen and Charlotte Smith **9.00** Gary Robertson **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra with David McNeil **7.30** Muscular Prose. Nick Coleman meets writers inspired by football (r) **8.00** Food for Thought. See Choice **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **11.30** Tales of the Turf. Richard Griffiths reports on the life and times of Prince Monolulu (r) **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(MW)** Graham Dene **1.00pm (FM)** Nick Abbot **(MW)** Nicky Horne **4.00** Mark Forrest **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(MW)** Caimin Jones **10.00** Lynn Parsons **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** Steve Hamilton **1.00am** Andy Wint

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: O'Brien's First Christmas **7.30** Options **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Concert Hall **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Artyfacts **9.30** Literature File: The Mill on the Floss **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** On Screen **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Civilization **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack Hit List **3.00** News; News in German (648 only) **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway **3.30** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** Waveguide **4.30** The World Today; News in German (648 only) **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** One Planet; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Megamix **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** The Farming World **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Report **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** One Planet **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. News and travel reports, plus Morning March and Breakfast Baroque **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes carols by the choir of New College, Oxford. Plus The Classic Masterpiece, the hall of Fame Hour and and a recipe for Indian spiced turkey **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.30** Newsnight **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning **8.00** Evening Concert: Handel (Messiah). *Performed by Tommy Williams, treble, Barbara Schlick and* Sandrine Piau, sopranos, Andreas Scholl, alto, Mark Padmore, tenor, Nathan Berg, bass, Les Arts Florissants, under William Christie **10.00** *Michael Mappin.* Includes at **11.35** Nocturne **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Barber (Violin Concerto); Sibelius (Karelia Suite); *Poulenc (Quatre Motets pour le Temps de Noel);* Dvořák (Slavonic Dances); Tavener (The Lamb)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Donizetti (Sinfonia in G minor for solo wind instruments); Purcell (Welcome to All the Pleasures); Schubert (Impromptu in F minor); Strauss (Death and Transfiguration)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood Thomas. Includes Rubbra (Dormi Jesu); Mozart (Symphony No 39 in E flat); John Peterson (Rituals in Transfigured Time, first broadcast); Bartok (Concerto for Orchestra); Gurney (I Will Go with my Father A-Ploughing); Beethoven (Piano Quintet in E flat)
12.00 Composers of the Week: British Light Music
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Philip *Dukes, viola, Sophia Rahman, piano. Schumann* (Adagio and Allegro in A flat); Stravinsky (Elegy for solo viola); Shostakovich (Viola Sonata) (r)
1.55 Nursery Notions: Little Jack Horner. With readings from David Holt and music from Tim Laycock and George Weignand (2/5)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic, under Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Artur Pizarro, piano. Stravinsky (Suite The Firebird, 1919 version); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor); Sibelius (Symphony No 1); Rimsky-Korsakov (Suite Christmas Eve)
4.00 Voices — *My Kind of Song: Victoria Wood.* *The* singer and comedian tells Iain Burnside about her favourite songs and singers (r)
4.45 Turns of the Century: Kenneth Williams (2/4) (r)
5.00 In Repertory. The *Times* opera critic Rodney *Milnes talks to Willard White about Gershwin's Porgy and Bess* (2/5) (r)
6.00 Schubert Songbook. Gordon Stewart looks at Schubert songs from the singer's point of view and investigates what others thought of him (r)
6.15 In Country Churches. Adrian Jack visits St James's in Great Packington, Warwickshire (1/5)
7.00 Beethoven: (String Quartet in E flat) performed by the Henschel Quartet: Christoph and Markus Henschel, violins, Monika Henschel, viola, Mathias Beyer, cello
7.45 Performance on 3: Paris, City of Light. See Choice. Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Krim Criswell, soprano, Donald Maxwell, baritone, Gerald Martin Moore, piano, Chamber Ensemble under Wyn Davies, piano. Satie (Je te Veux; La Diva de L'Empire); *Poulenc (Le Bal Masque); Weill* (Three Parisian Songs) **8.25** Brilliant Creatures **8.45** Concert, part two. Poulenc (Chansons Gaillardes; Sonata for clarinet and bassoon)
9.30 Postscript: Christmas Day (2/5) (r)
9.45 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic, under Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Craig Ogden, guitar. Milhaud (Le Boeuf sur le Toit); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Bizet (Suite Carmen)
10.45 The Shellac Show. A new series in which Jeremy Nicholas celebrates the age of 78 rpm records
11.30 Composer of the Week: Prokofiev (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald MacLeod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.45** The Nation's Favourite Poems **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Jeremy Harris
10.00 (FM) News; And Here's the Tape to Prove It. The naturalist Nick Baker encounters the pink-toed tarantulas and man-eating piranhas of the Amazon (4/4)
10.00 (LW) News; Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts
12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Waite
12.25pm Random Edition. Stories from the *British Gazette and Sunday Monitor* of March 1792 (5/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Alex Brodie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Christmas Shopping, *by Max Hillman. The story of an* unlikely romance between two stressed-out shoppers
2.30 Literary Houses: Abbotsford. Iain Burnside visits Sir Walter Scott's house in the Scottish Borders (2/4)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews *More Grimm Tales* staged at the Young Vic in London and previews the best programmes on radio and television over Christmas and New Year
4.45 Short Story: The Happy Prince, by Oscar Wilde
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 North East of Eden, by Peter Kerry. The annual festival of St Marcus brings a convoy of tourists to Paradise Island. With Joan Sims and Rebecca Front (4/6) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Toy Stories. Jeremy Hardy investigates the prospects for the more traditional toys and games in the face of ever increasing demand for high-tech gadgetry
8.00 Science Now. A look at the latest scientific developments and discoveries with Peter Evans (r)
8.30 The Network. In the last of the series Alun Lewis and guests contemplate the technological future. How will we work and play in the 21st century and beyond?
9.00 In Touch. Presented by Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Playback, by Raymond Chandler, abridged by Robert Dodds, and read by Angus MacInnes (2/10) (r)
11.00 Mediumwave. The week's events in the media (r)
11.30 Sentimental Journey. Ian Hislop returns to Hong Kong for the first time since his childhood (6/6) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Christmas at the End of the Road. Written and read by Tom Bodett (2/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الإصل

And stars appeared out of the North West

There must be a generation of young people growing up believing that Liverpool is most famous not for the Beatles but for the Adelphi hotel, its bossy manageress and its foul-mouthed, vegetarian-hating cook (or cewk as we must call him). So to show that they have a cute sense of irony, the producers of **Hotel** (BBC1) married these two great Liverpudlian icons last night by giving us a glimpse of the annual Beatles convention that takes over the Adelphi for one weekend a year.

It was clearly the producers' little joke to end their stay at the Adelphi with lookalike McCartneys and Lennons singing verses such as: *If there's anything that you want/If there's anything I can do/Just call on me, and I'll send it along/With love from me to you.*

The juxtaposition of this music floating through a hotel which — at least from what we have seen — treats its guests the way a dog treats a lamppost, was clearly meant to be ironic. Wasn't it? It felt like the televisual equivalent of Magritte's surrealist painting of a pipe under which are written the words "*Ceci n'est pas une pipe*".

Of course, the Adelphi *will* give you anything you want, as long as it's not polite service, a vegetarian meal or the benefit of the doubt. Running a hotel is a military operation, but the Adelphi has gone one step further and decided to treat its guests like the enemy.

"He's just a nuisance," said the I'm-taking-no-nonsense-*from-you* lady at reception to the television cameras, after we had witnessed a guest asking if he might be moved to a more congenial room. No, he couldn't, she told him bluntly.

One problem with *Hotel* is that it has done what it set out to do pretty well. Look at its ratings. The trouble is that its success will now entice other programme-makers to seek out their own "docu-soap" subjects; and there are only so many of these we can stomach. And there are only so many "TV stars" that can be manufactured overnight from programmes about driving schools and hotels.

Searching for a promo to punctuate its Christmas broadcasts, the BBC has doctored a version of its brilliant *Perfect Day* musical collage, adding a wintry park backdrop and snow-covered trees. Next month we'll see a promo in which the *Dalai Lama hums the World* Service tune, *Lillibullero*.

But it can only be a matter of time before the "stars" that television channels choose to plug their promos will be people such as the Adelphi's general manager, Eileen Downey, or travel reps in Spain, or Dover port officials, or other "docu-soap" faces: it's quite probable that, with more than eight million viewers tuning in to

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Hotel, Downey and Smith are more recognisable to many viewers than the Dalai Lama.

They have certainly become stars in their own small way. Brian Birchall — the Adelphi's banqueting manager whose weekly shouting match with the chef David Smith was beginning to look as staged as a wrestling bout — says he is accosted on the streets of Liverpool by well-meaning passers-by with the phrase "Just cewk, will ya!" — a command he hurled at chef a few weeks ago. At the end of last night's programme, as we were being brought up to date on what has happened to the "players" since the cameras stopped rolling, we learnt that Christine, the receptionist, finally had her baby and that hard-working Brian has been promoted to deputy manager. What this means for his pay packet I don't know. But presumably it guarantees him above-the-title billing if a second *series does go ahead.*

Instead of trying to make stars out of learner drivers, **Stella Street** (BBC2) has approached fake celebrity from a different angle and created a surreal street in Surbiton, inhabited by some of Hollywood's biggest names. Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson, Joe Pesci. Al Pacino worries about the price of chicken fillets at Asda. David Bowie lives at No 2, Dirk Bogarde at No 56. Mick Jagger and Keith Richard run the corner shop, with Mick always worrying if the cling peaches have passed their sell-by date. Oh yes, Jimmy Hill's there. And Mrs Huggett, cleaning lady to the stars. It is hard to tell whether this ten-part, ten-minute suburban soap will prove to be an historic gem or whether it will turn out to have shorter legs than a cobra, but I am veering towards the historic television gem. It's all so deliciously preposterous.

Obviously, it's hard to get Hollywood stars to act in *Brookside* or *Eastenders*, so Caine, Nicholson, *et al*, are played here by impressionists Phil Cornwell and John Sessions, and directed by Peter Richardson: a case of "*Celui-ci n'est pas Michael Caine*". It's fake, but no more fake than making stars out of real-life hotel receptionists.

Cornwell's Caine is pure *Alfie*. After seeing Jack Nicholson run indoors with yet another blonde, Caine looks into the camera and says: "Dirty little monkey, inne! He's like a rat up a drainpipe. Still, he makes a nice apple crumble." Later, spotting Joe Pesci digging a large, grave-size hole in his back garden, Caine inquires: "Oi, Joe. Watchoo got there? Is that a bitta mulch?" When Pesci answers: "What the ****'s mulch?", Michael explains, in a neighbourly way: "Mulch is something that you put underneath to bed in your roses *and other 'ardy plants.*"

Pesci gets angry very, very quickly during games of Monopoly, when his neighbours refuse to let him build whorehouses instead of hotels on Vine Street. "He has a tendency towards psychotic violence," stammers Jimmy Hill. "And, you know, that scares me, I must say." Frankly, anything that wipes the smile off Jimmy Hill's face gets my vote.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (55743)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (50101)

9.00 That's Entertainment Part II (1976, b/w) Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a compilation of MGM musical and comedy highlights (T) (31588)

11.00 A Christmas Story (1983) FILM Family comedy following a young boy as he grows up in suburban Indiana in the 1940s. Peter Billingsley stars (32859)

12.30pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook *EastEnders* Wendy Richard and Todd Carty join chefs Ainsley Harriott and Tony Tobin (r) (T) (20385)

1.00 News (T) and weather (60588)

1.30 Regional News (17017526)

1.40 The Weather Show (86911385)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (72330859)

2.05 Petrocelli (r) (8586526)

3.00 Vets in Practice (r) (T) (8453)

3.30 Playdays (7374694) **3.50** Arthur (7354830) **4.10** To Me, to You (3989410) **4.35** The Mask (2256120) **5.00** Newsround (T) (8789435) **5.10** Aquila. Last in series (T) (6963743)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (100255)

6.00 News (T) and weather (694)

6.30 Regional News (946)

7.00 Holiday Jill Dando follows in the wake of the Pilgrim Fathers to Cape Cod; Caroline Quentin explores the rainforests and coral reefs of Belize; Sophie Allistone reports from the Turkish port of Marmaris; Ross Kelly visits an unusual theme park in Holland; and John Holdsworth tries a bargain break in Vienna (T) (5052)

7.30 A Question of Sport Sports quiz chaired by Sue Barker (T) (830)

8.00 EastEnders Tiffany falls out with Aunt Sal (T) (1472)

8.30 Airport A behind-the-scenes look at Heathrow during the hectic Christmas period, following harassed staff as they try to locate a missing plane, cope with uncooperative passengers and rescue two furry creatures who are in the wrong place at the wrong time (T) (8697)

9.00 News (T) and weather (9859)

9.30 Clear and Present Danger (1994) FILM Harrison Ford reprises his role as former CIA analyst Jack Ryan. Ryan gets involved in the Colombian drugs trade while trying to track down terrorists responsible for murdering a prominent senator. Based on the novel by Tom Clancy, also starring Willem Dafoe. Directed by Phillip Noyce (88409304)

11.45 Bette Midler: Diva Las Vegas The singing superstar takes centre stage at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas (786859)
WALES: 11.45 FAW Invitational Cup. Highlights of League of Wales Newtown v Cardiff City and Conwy United v Bangor City (836168) **12.20am** Bette Midler: Diva Las Vegas (5829618) **1.50** FILM: Dream Lover (745927) **3.30** News (90235786) **3.35** BBC News 24

1.15am Dream Lover (1986) Thriller, with FILM Kristy McNichol, Ben Masters, Gayle Hunnicutt and Paul Shenar. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (775908)

2.55 Weather (3103163)

3.00 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2

7.15am Teletubbies (r) (2037694) **7.40 Secret Life of Toys** (r) (4192679) **7.55** Yakky Duck (r) (6813762) **8.15** Blue Peter (r) (T) (9786965) **8.40** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (6834168) **9.10** Jonny Quest (r) (4708323) **9.30** Sweet Valley High (r) (9914410) **9.55** Pingu (r) (7675781) **10.00** Teletubbies (45781)

10.30 The Last Unicorn (1982) Animated FILM fantasy featuring a host of star names (84149)

12.00 Gypsy Colt (1954) with Donna Corcoran, FILM Ward Bond and Patrick McGoohan. A youngster is heartbroken by her parents' decision to sell her horse. Directed by Andrew Marton (7573014)

1.10pm Fireman Sam (33511304) **1.20** Golf: Champions Challenge (2046033) **2.10** Wildlife Showcase (64274743) **2.40** News **2.45** Call My Bluff (328033) **3.15** Close-Up on James Stewart (7124149) **3.25** News **3.30** Showjumping (50743)

4.30 The Philadelphia Story (1940, b/w) FILM Sophisticated romantic comedy with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Directed by George Cukor (T) (42549743)

6.20 Close-Up on James Stewart (569410)

A tribute to a star (6.35pm)

6.35 James Stewart: The Last of the Good Guys Tribute to the actor who died in July. With contributions from Janet Leigh, David Lynch and Frank Capra Jr (T) (630878)

7.30 University Challenge The last-ever *Mastermind* champion and three finalists take on reigning *University Challenge* champions, Magdalen College, Oxford (T) (472)

8.00 A Christmas Dickens *Mr Chops the Dwarf* (9014)

8.30 Food and Drink Turkey leftovers, hot buttered rum and mulled wine (T) (8149)

9.00 Brazen Hussies Comedy drama about a resourceful landlady who teams up with a long-lost school pal and sets out to breathe new life into her ailing pub. With Julie Walters, Robert Lindsay, Crissy Rock and Jimmy Tarbuck (r) (1830)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (448507)

11.15 Stella Street The lives, loves and laundry of the famous stars living in leafy Surbiton (T) (985287)

11.25 Treat it Gentle: Sidney Bechet Tribute to the legendary saxophonist, featuring contributions from friends, family and contemporaries including his protégé Bob Wilber, Humphrey Lyttelton and Woody Allen (403694)

12.15am Pete Kelly's Blues (1955) Musical FILM set in the 1920s directed by and starring Jack Webb, with Janet Leigh, Ella Fitzgerald, Lee Marvin and Peggy Lee (865434)

1.50 A Great Day in Harlem (r) (T) (7751618)

2.50 Weather (3102434)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2323168)

9.25 Treasure Seekers (2/4) (r) (T) (1826965)

9.55 News (T) and weather (7679507)

10.05 Tiny Toon Christmas (7669120)

10.35 The Story Lady (1991) with Jessica Tandy and Stephanie Zimbalist. When a widow decides to produce her own children's story television programme, she is unprepared for its popularity. Directed by Larry Elikann (T) (19304033)

12.20pm Regional News (9060588)

12.30 News (T) and weather (5967410)

12.55 Silver Bears (1978) Comedy adventure FILM with Michael Caine as a financial genius who is sent from Las Vegas to supervise Mafia money at a Swiss bank. Directed by Ivan Passer (T) (18757526)

3.00 News (T) and weather (7115120)

3.05 Regional News (5961912)

3.10 Movie Magic: The Final Frontier The world of space films (1029830)

4.05 No Greater Love (1996) Danielle Steel's FILM period drama about a woman who loses her parents and fiancé on the *Titanic* and is left to cope with the running of a newspaper business. Directed by Richard Heffron (T) (78503743)

5.40 News (T) and weather (343033)

6.00 The Making of Hercules (r) (187830)

6.25 Regional Weather (501269)

6.30 Regional News (994)

7.00 Emmerdale Kim has other plans when Steve wants to be her white knight, but when she returns home she finds James is missing (T) (5385)

8.00 Brian Conley's Crazy Christmas Music and humour from the versatile comic. With guest stars Eternal (T) (4033)

Jean Marsh and Ruth Madoc (9.00pm)

9.00 Agatha Christie's The Pale Horse Colin Buchanan and Jayne Ashbourne star in this murder-mystery about a young sculptor's quest to find the killer of a priest. Also with Jean Marsh, Ruth Madoc, Michael Byrne and Hermione Norris (T) (7120)

11.15 Regional News (880633)

11.25 A Sense of Christmas Following the pupils of Edinburgh's Royal Blind School as they prepare for Christmas (T) (966588)

12.25am Running Mates (1992) with Diane FILM Keaton and Ed Harris. A children's author is unprepared for the media intrusion that ensues when she becomes engaged to a presidential candidate. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg (601163)

2.05 Planet Mirth (8554095)

2.35 Dance '97 (5111434)

3.35 Rockmania (1515827)

4.35 Football Extra presented by Gabriel Clarke (1908811)

5.30 Talespin (6152637)

5.55 News (6155724)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

6.00pm 24 Hours (762)

6.30-7.00 Central News (994)

2.05am Funny Business (8554095)

2.35 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (5356207)

3.05 Film: Ooh! You Are Awful (1972) starring Dick Emery, Ronald Fraser and Derren Nesbitt. A comedy about a crook's efforts to discover the combination of a Swiss bank account, the number of which is tattooed on the backsides of four women. Directed by Cliff Owen (676279)

4.50 ITV Sport Classics (91025182)

4.55 Football Extra (1919927)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (9060588)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (23472)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

6.00 Meridian Tonight (762)

6.30-7.00 Ambulance! (994)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

5.39-5.40 Anglia Air Watch (821762)

6.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner. The chef visits Stamford for a traditional Christmas celebration (762)

6.28 Anglia Weather (501269)

6.30-7.00 Anglia News (994)

11.14 Anglia Air Watch (255149)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (71781)

7.00 The Babysitters' Club (9187946)

7.35 Two Stupid Dogs (8485410)

8.00 The Big Breakfast (37762)

10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507)

10.01 Happy Days (3540269)

10.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack (1338946)

11.05 Moesha (8441304)

11.30 The Monkees (6762)

12.00 Eerie, Indiana (19781)

12.30pm Ricki Lake (46323)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (50121762)

1.15 Tomos Y Tanc (50126217)

1.30 Frances Bissell's West Country Christmas (5744830)

2.05 Film: Miracle on 34th Street (698089)

3.50 Fresh Pop (8837033)

4.00 Christmas TV Dinners (255)

4.30 United Tastes of America (439)

5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (5864656)

5.40 Crefyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu Hanimeiddio: Bywyd Gwrw Nanak (341675)

6.00 Newyddion (550762)

6.10 Heno (927656)

7.00 Brodyr Bach Dolig (579615)

7.45 Gwahoddiad (924526)

8.45 Newyddion (575946)

9.00 Y Palmant Aur (2439)

10.00 Brookside (747120)

10.35 Friends at Christmas (912507)

11.35 Frasier (266255)

12.05am Don't Forget Your Toothbrush (6471279)

1.05 The Strike (1842453)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (71781) **7.00** The Babysitters' Club (r) (87255) **7.30** Two Stupid Dogs (r) (66762) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (37762)

10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507) **10.01** Happy Days (r) (3540269) **10.35** The Secret World of Alex Mack (r) (1338946) **11.05** Moesha (r) (8441304) **11.30** The Monkees (6762) **12.00** Eerie, Indiana (r) (T) (19781)

12.30pm Light Lunch (r) (T) (49149)

1.30 Frances Bissell's West Country Christmas Turkey with all the trimmings (2/3) (T) (5744830)

2.05 Miracle on 34th Street (1947, b/w) with FILM Edmund Gwenn and Maureen O'Hara. The original classic Christmas fantasy. Directed by George Seaton (T) (698089)

3.50 The Pink Panther (2703323)

4.05 The Robe (1953) with Richard Burton as FILM a Roman centurion put in charge of the execution of Christ. Directed by Henry Koster (T) (72713410)

6.30 The Best of Collectors' Lot Highlights from the series (T) (656)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (6762)

7.30 Ved Mehta on Blindness The author on how he became blind as a result of meningitis at the age of three, and how he still manages to include visual descriptions in his books (r) (T) (168)

8.00 Nigel Slater's Real Christmas Dinner The emphasis is on ease and speed of preparation (T) (7410)

8.30 Brookside Will Lindsey be able to get Barry out of her system? (T) (3217)

9.00 Friends at Christmas: The One With Phoebe's Dad Phoebe learns the truth about her father (r) (T) (5897)

Designer Gianni Versace (9.30pm)

9.30 Secret Lives: Versace How did a shy, gay young man from a small town in southern Italy rise to worldwide fame? (T) (49588)

10.30 Friends at Christmas: The One Where Rachel Quits Rachel wonders if she'll ever get another job after quitting Central Perk (r) (T) (727526)

11.05 Jo Brand Burns Rubber She goes rallying (T) (974507)

12.05am Love at First Bite (1979) with George FILM Hamilton as a vampire evicted from his Transylvanian home who travels to New York. With Susan Saint James. Directed by Stan Dragoti (346724)

1.50 Demon (r) (7396076)

2.05 Dinner at Eight (1933, b/w) with Jean FILM Harlow, Wallace Berry and John Barrymore. New York society comedy classic directed by George Cukor (271328)

4.05 Reckless (1935, b/w) with Jean Harlow FILM as a Broadway entertainer who is wooed by a wealthy socialite. Directed by Victor Fleming (575637)

5.55 Dumb and Dumber (6153366)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (4021255)

7.30 WideWorld: Fragile Planet The tropical forests of Central America and their plants and animals (8/10) (8255994)

8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1504061) **8.30** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (r) (2954502) **9.00** Espresso (7865507) **10.00** Natural Natives: Hopping Mad (r) (T) (4220946) **10.30** Period Rooms (r) (8554746)

11.00 Leeza (3149168) **11.50** Double Espresso (90705439) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (4859138) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (1321304)

1.00 5 News Update (88663694)

1.05 Sunset Beach (T) (4914526)

2.00 5's Company (3119304)

3.30 The Christmas Box (1995) with Richard FILM Thomas, Maureen O'Hara and Annette O'Toole. An overworked father learns the true meaning of Christmas. Directed by Marcus Cole (9301120)

5.20 5's Company Late Extra (56668101)

5.30 Whittle Quiz (4587168)

6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (4577781)

6.30 Family Affairs Jack sells some of his possessions in order to buy Maria a Christmas present (T) (4568033)

7.00 Exclusive (5936946)

7.30 Wildlife SOS Special Volunteers at the Wildlife Aid Sanctuary in Surrey come to the aid of wild animals in distress (T) (4564217)

Paul and Stacey Young (8.00pm)

8.00 Vanessa's Day With Paul and Stacey Young, the singer and his model wife (T) (5945694)

8.30 5 News (5924101)

9.00 With Harmful Intent (1993) with Joan FILM Van Ark, Christopher North and Rick Springfield. The parents of a young boy turn to a former policeman for help when *they suspect that their son has been* targeted by a stalker. Directed by Richard Friedman (32352052)

10.50 The Jack Docherty Show A compilation of *Not the Jack Docherty Show* (1482694)

11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H (9490033)

12.30am Live and Dangerous Including **1.50** Motorsport and action from the Latin American Leagues at **3.45** (64054569)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Starring Michael Douglas and Karl Malden (T) (5656569)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7813144)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (289149) **9.00** Hotel (25014) **10.00** Another World (17410) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (13568) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (87694) **1.00pm** Geraldo (63014) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (60014) **3.00** Jenny Jones (96878) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (75385) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2507) **6.00** Dream Team (2858) **6.30** Married with Children (6439) **7.00** The Simpsons (3236) **7.30** Real TV (5823) **8.00** Rescue Paramedics (9656) **8.30** Coppers (1491) **9.00** Police Stop! 5 (94471) **10.00** The Extraordinary (18588) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (25439) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (89434) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (46989) **2.00** Long Play (6804298)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
The Glimmer Man (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Jingle All the Way (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
The First Wives' Club (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Balto (1995) (49830) **8.00 Things Change (1988)** (84894) **10.00 Captive Hearts (1987)** (79875) **12.00 Father of the Bride Part II (1995)** (74217) **2.00pm The Secret of Nimh (1982)** (97491) **3.30 Balto (1995)** (51625) **5.00 Big Bully (1996)** (47588) **7.00 Father of the Bride Part II (1995)** (14323) **9.00 The People Next Door (1996)** (90694) **10.30 The Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace (1995)** (87629149) **12.10am First Light (1992)** (912291) **1.55 Ghoulies Go to College (1990)** (634347) **3.30 The Infiltrator (1995)** (413811)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.30am The Paleface (1948) (57569033) **8.00 The Karate Kid Part II (1986)** (62236) **10.00 Mister Dog (1995)** (77217) **12.00 A Christmas Carol (1984)** (72859) **2.00pm The Ditchdigger's Daughters (1997)** (23410) **4.00 The Almost Perfect Bank Robbery (1996)** (50061) **5.30 The Karate Kid Part II (1986)** (22168) **8.00 Legends of the Fall (1995)** (41795052) **10.45 Money Train (1996)** (41916323) **12.35am Black Scorpion: Ground Zero (1996)** (454502) **2.10 Sins of Silence (1996)** (879144) **3.45 Vampires in Venice (1988)** (740989) **5.20 Joe at the Kingdom of the Bees (1972)** (8909057)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (9516323) **6.00 Batteries Not Included (1987)** (4758830) **8.00 Great Balls of Fire (1989)** (4750875) **10.00 Beverly Hills Cop (1984)** (9080236) **11.45 Breakout (1975)** (8622189) **1.25am Sex and the Single Girl (1964)** (4829144) **3.20 I Wake Up Screaming (1941)** (61195078) **4.40 Close**

TNT

9.00pm North by Northwest (1959) (54338129) **11.30 The Flesh and the Devil (1927)** (63548675) **1.30am All at Sea (1958)** (45325989) **3.15 The Secret Partner (1961)** (28891786) **5.00 Close**

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (54965) **7.30** Wrestling (99694) **8.30** Sports Centre (67965) **9.00** V-Max (58217) **9.30** Aerobics (27287) **10.00** Spanish Primera Liga (81033) **12.00** Aerobics (61781) **12.30pm** Football Special (63781) **2.30** Spanish Primera Liga (78526) **4.30** V-Max (2878) **5.00** Wrestling (2851) **6.00** Sports Centre (3743) **6.30** Tartan Extra (7323) **7.00** The Footballers' Football Show (40101) **8.00** Spanish Primera Liga (60965) **10.00** Sports Centre (82410) **10.30** Tartan Extra (48830) **11.00** The Footballers' Football Show (30385) **12.00** Sports Centre (87144) **12.30am** Spanish Primera Liga (60724) **2.30** The Footballers' Football Show (27328) **3.30** Sports Centre (75144) **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (9464410) **7.30** Sports Centre (9450217) **8.00** Football League Review (5288472) **8.30** Fish TV (8746746) **9.30** Football League Review (7269120) **10.00** World Motor Sport (3073385) **1.00pm** NHL Ice Hockey (6174217) **3.00** Golf Skills Challenge (4590255) **5.00** Pro Beach Soccer (2876878) **6.00** Sports Unlimited (7288255) **7.00** Sports Centre (2877507) **7.30** Ice Hockey: Bracknell Bees v Manchester Storm — Live (6291061) **10.00** Sports Unlimited (2340014) **11.00** NHL Ice Hockey (4588526) **1.00am** Sports Centre (9446637) **1.30** Pro Beach Soccer (1051078) **2.30** Rugby Union: European Cup (1050347) **4.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (81113168) **1.00** Fish TV (81199588) **2.00** Super League Classics (32283588) **3.30** World Motor Sport (75867217) **6.30** Survival of the Fittest (28445236) **7.00** Fish TV (58430472) **8.00** Rugby Union: European Cup (56450236) **10.00** Superbouts (56439743) **11.00** Olympic Series (35471526) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Speedworld (19746) **9.00** Cycling (85656) **10.00** Live Alpine Skiing (57052) **11.00** Snowboarding (44588) **12.00** Live Alpine Skiing (83149) **12.30pm** Triathlon (21120) **2.00** Biathlon (63052) **4.00** Football (53323) **5.30** Offroad (87507) **6.30** Freeride (2491) **7.00** Football (69897) **9.00** Boxing (84781) **10.00** Sumo (74168) **11.00** Equestrianism (58781) **12.00** Football (62340) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Bullseye (4191491) **7.35** Neighbours (4984656) **8.00** Crossroads (2059965) **8.25** EastEnders (6589830) **9.00** The Bill (6805588) **9.30** Howards' Way (9108830) **10.00** Bless This House (1276491) **10.30** The Sullivans (8894472) **11.00** Boon (6830878) **12.00** Crossroads (46985323) **12.25pm** Neighbours (46988410) **12.55** EastEnders (2819120) **1.30** In Sickness and in Health (4011439) **2.10** 2point4 Children (6374781) **2.50** Never the Twain (7193526) **3.20** A Word with Alf (3281588) **3.30** The Bill (9677236) **4.00** Morecambe and Wise (38409033) **5.05** EastEnders (1963323) **5.40** Bob's Full House (5109656) **6.20** In Sickness and in Health (8230043) **7.00** Dad's Army (1170061) **7.45** Shelley (8757588) **8.20** 2point4 Children (6747679) **9.00** The Bill (1690385) **9.30** Spender (5488762) **10.10** The Young Ones (1010149) **10.40** French and Saunders (5357052) **11.20** Canned Carrot (4002101) **12.00** Rock Goes to College (3155429) **12.40am** FILM: A Place for Annie (1993) (7432908) **1.00** Spitting Image (8237168) **1.30** Miami Vice (2079279) **2.20** Shopping (23652860)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8808946) **7.00** Coronation St (8215101) **7.30** Families (8234236) **8.00** Blind Date (6858255) **9.00** Within These Walls (4780526) **10.00** Donahue (6223120) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6210656) **12.00** Coronation St (8683878) **12.30pm** Families (2126033) **1.00** On the Buses (8214472) **1.30** Please Sir! (2125304) **2.00** The Good Guys (7739694) **3.00** Donahue (7963236) **4.00** Mission: Impossible (7942743) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3727149) **6.00** Families (7083410) **6.30** Coronation St (7074762) **7.00** Blind Date (5830453) **8.00** Hart to Hart (9335061) **9.00** Coronation St (7971255) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2146897) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (8080894) **11.00** Close

Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold and John Aston (Movies Gold, 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (98035453) **5.30** Hey Dad II (28439675) **6.00** Blockbusters (28436588) **6.30** A Country Practice (28450168) **7.00** Get Back (74635897) **7.30** Our House (28449052) **8.00** Desmond's (88330205) **8.30** The Big One (83180502) **9.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon (58441588) **10.00** Bread and Roses (58444675) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84160782) **12.00** Let the Blood Run Free (83507328) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (54812144) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street **7.00** The Little Mermaid **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Brand Spanking New Doug **9.00** Nightmare Ned **9.30** Gargoyles **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Boy Meets World **11.30** Brotherly Love **12.00** The Wonder Years **12.30pm** Home Improvement **1.00** FILM: **Cinderella** **2.30** Winnie the Pooh **2.45** Inspector Gadget Saves Christmas **3.15** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** Recess **3.45** Gargoyles **4.15** Recess **4.30** Brand Spanking New Doug **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Boy Meets World **6.30** Home Improvement **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids **8.00** FILM: **Three Men and a Baby** **9.35** Dinosaurs

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Deffy and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Ace Ventura **9.30** Casper **10.00** The Tick **10.30** Incredible Hulk **11.00** Bureau of Alien Detectors **11.30** Phantom 2040 **12.00** Sweet Valley High **12.30pm** Life with Louie **1.00** The Mouse and the Monster **1.30** C Bear and Jamal **2.00** Eek! Stravaganza **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X-Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **9.45** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Spirou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Doug **6.30** Doug **7.00** Doug **7.30** Doug **8.00** Doug **8.30** Doug **9.00** Doug **9.30** Doug **10.00** Doug **10.30** Doug **11.00** Doug **11.30** Doug **12.00** Doug **12.30pm** Doug **1.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack **1.30** Clarissa Explains It All **2.00** The Adventures of Pete and Pete **2.30** Kablam! **3.00** Bally Kipper's POV **3.30** Capitol Critters **4.00** Jumanji **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** 9-2-5 **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** TX Six **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Karaoke Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** Moonlighting **2.30** FILM: **The Little Match Girl** **4.30** Aliens Next Door **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

6.00pm The A-Team (4647743) **9.00** Tour of Duty (4667507) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (6811149) **10.30** Italian Stripping Housewives (1756043) **10.45** FILM: **Maximum Overdrive** (9841439) **12.45am** Tour of Duty (1060989) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (5211231) **2.15** Italian Stripping Housewives (60787095) **2.30** FILM: **Dark Breed** (2603618) **4.30** Family Dog (6182219) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4264521)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (9052) **7.30** Roseanne (1149) **8.00** Ellen (5472) **8.30** Cybill (4507) **9.00** Cheers (17385) **9.30** Taxi (83491) **10.00** Frasier (60052) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (46472) **11.00** Festival of Fun (12830) **11.30** Ellen (81435) **12.00** Roseanne (85786) **12.30am** Nightstand (79637) **1.00** Soap (35453) **1.30** Taxi (41502) **2.00** Festival of Fun (65417) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (82434) **3.00** Frasier (22989) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (73786) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (3779762) **9.00** Dark Skies (3799526) **10.00** Science of Star Trek (3789385) **11.00** Friday the 13th (6081507) **12.00** Sightings (4237796) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (9369589) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3171279) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7286250) **2.30** New Hitchcock (7272057) **3.00** Friday the 13th (9071989)

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am At Home for the Holidays **9.30** Gardeners' Diary **10.00** New Yankee Workshop **10.30** Julia Child **11.00** Craftwise **11.30** Graham Kerr **12.00** New Yankee Workshop **12.30pm** Christmas Consuming Passions **1.00** Craftwise **1.30** Yan Can Cook **2.00** Gardeners' Diary **2.30** The Painted House **3.00** New Yankee Workshop **3.30** New Yankee Workshop **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3654385) **4.30** Flightline (3683897) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (6801255) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3674149) **6.00** The Harem of an Ethiopian Baboon (9125507) **7.00** Mysterious World (8881491) **7.30** Disaster (3694526) **8.00** Discover Magazine (4650217) **9.00** Raging Planet (4693781) **10.00** Keiko's Story (4673168) **11.00** Tall Ship (8819385) **12.00** Lotus Elise — Project M1:11 (3768673) **1.00am** Disaster (7732958) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9842415) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Samba — Rhythms of Life (2807507) **7.30** Tango! (2259675) **8.00** The Voices of Doo-Wop (2818255) **8.30** Blues Highway (2895782) **9.00** Klezmer — Fiddler on the Roof (8532781) **10.00** Accordion — Second Wind (8542168) **11.00** Search for the Bismark (5866588) **12.00** Stalin's Arctic Master Plan (2494366) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Best of Travel Live **1.00** Ridge Riders **1.30** Cities of the World **2.00** Travel Trails **2.30** Flavours of France **3.00** Railway Adventures Across Europe **3.30** Caribbean Diary **4.00** Snow Safari **4.30** Beyond Borders **5.00** Around Britain **5.30** On Tour **6.00** Aspects of Life **6.30** Innocent Abroad **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Real World **8.30** Snow Safari **9.00** Destinations **10.00** Greg's World **10.30** On the Horizon **11.00** Amazing Races **11.30** Flights Over Spain

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Airborne (9424746) **5.00** Civil War Journal (2876878) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (7288255) **7.00** Biography: Mary of Nazareth (2341743) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Alive and Cooking **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Twelve Chefs of Christmas **2.00** Chef for a Day **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** The Green Gourmet **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** For Better, for Worse **4.30** West Country Christmas **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Lesley's Christmas Countdown **9.30** Gordon Elliott **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** Young and the Restless **11.55** Brookside **12.25pm** Jimmy's **1.00** Cheap Chic **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Hart to Hart **3.00** Could It Be a Miracle? **4.10** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Jerry Springer **9.00** FILM: **Blind Witness** **11.00** Sex Zone

ZEE TV

6.30am Pastuku Pastu **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Business **8.00** Business News **8.15** Music **8.30** Aahaa **9.00** Revathi **9.30** Health Show **10.00** Parwarish **11.00** Shahi Dawat **11.30** Beat Ben Jaye **12.00** Sailaab **12.30pm** Daraar **1.00** FILM **4.00** Quiz Contest **4.30** On a Hat Trick **5.00** Amar Kathayen **5.30** Naya A-Z **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** Pop Busters **7.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Hum Aap Ke Hain Woh **9.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.00** Tara **11.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **12.00** Close

RACING 33
Age no barrier to glory for Bradley

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 38
Sanders runs into the record books

Tottenham recruit former favourite in attempt to ease worries about relegation

Klinsmann reclaims his Spurs

BY MATT DICKINSON

YOU cannot put a price on confidence or star quality, but at £175,000, the superficial amount it took to lure Jürgen Klinsmann so spectacularly back to the FA Carling Premiership yesterday, Tottenham Hotspur appear to have secured the bargain of a lifetime.

A week ago, the only reason for 100 supporters to have gathered at the gates of White Hart Lane was to start a revolt. Yesterday lunchtime they sang, danced and cavorted as the German forward swept in and out, dallying for just a couple of hours to sign a six-month contract. Third from bottom? Who cares? Jürgen's back.

It is safe to assume the celebrations were equally ecstatic at the club's Chigwell training ground, where the players know first-hand what Klinsmann is capable of, from the 1994-95 season when he achieved the ultimate in English football of winning respect even from opposing supporters.

With the former Sampdoria forward hoping to make a tumultuous debut against Arsenal at White Hart Lane on Sunday, possibly as captain, the strength of that affection will quickly be put to its ultimate test.

If he does play, it will be in the No 33 shirt (shared by his favourite basketball player, Scottie Pippen of the Chicago Bulls) and it was a prominent figure yesterday, being both Klinsmann's age and approximately the number of pounds — multiplied by a thousand, of course — that he will earn each week as the club's highest-paid player.

It is a salary, boosted by hefty bonuses for helping to keep Spurs in the Premiership, that puts him in the top bracket of the Premiership's illustrious names, higher than anyone at Manchester United, where Roy Keane sits on top of the pile, but less than Alan Shearer, the England captain.

No one at Spurs will begrudge it, though, if he repeats the achievements of his previous visit when he scored 29 goals, missed just one Premiership game, and won the Footballer of the Year award for services to charm as well as football following his arrival from AS Monaco.

That also was a time when the club were undergoing managerial upheaval, with Gerry Francis succeeding Osvaldo Ardiles in mid-campaign. Francis passed on a dispirited side to Christian Gross a month ago, and while the Swiss coach stressed that it is goals he principally wants from Klinsmann, he will know that the injection of enthusiasm will be equally vital, just as it proved three years ago, in lifting Spurs from relegation trouble.

There are many, though, who will believe Tottenham's money might have been better-spent on a world-class defender or central midfield player, for all of the German's wonderful gifts.

Klinsmann, radiant as ever although sparing the jokes this time around, believes he can meet the daunting expectations. "I am captain of the German national team so I don't have any problem with pressure in football," he said.

"I have kept in very close touch with what is going on at Spurs ever since I left, because this is where I felt most at home. If I ever considered coming back to England, it could never be to any other club than Spurs because of the fans and the whole environment. The team is good enough to save itself, but I can give them a hand."

Klinsmann, who won the Uefa Cup and Bundesliga in his two years at Bayern Munich following his move from Spurs, has been restricted at Sampdoria to just eight Serie A games and two goals by an ankle injury. A row with Vujadin Boskov, the club's Serbian coach, proved the final straw and allowed Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, to pull off his stunning coup.

On a day of surprises, perhaps the biggest was hearing Sugar own up to naivety in the way he publicly fell out with Klinsmann in the summer of 1995, when the German exercised an opt-out clause in his two-year contract after 12 months and moved to Bayern for £200,000. Presented with one of the striker's shirts then, Sugar said he would not even wash his car with it.

"That may have been the situation two or three years ago," he said yesterday, "but it is all water under the bridge. I was naive and that is my problem. Do you have to keep eating humble pie?"

Sugar preferred to dwell on the glorious memories he hopes Klinsmann can revive, although at 33 it may be asking a lot to expect a similar goalscoring return, even though he is still regarded highly enough to spearhead the German national team.

"I remember his first game at Sheffield Wednesday when he started to light up the club, in fact the whole Premiership," Sugar said. "He got smashed in the face and had to be carried off on a stretcher to have his mouth stitched up. That was his welcome to English football, but he came back to play against Everton the following Wednesday and scored a great scissor-kick goal. It was that spirit we all admired very much.

"People go on about coming over here for the money but I know it is because he enjoys it. He told me how much he likes being able to walk around Hampstead without being hassled, something he could never do in Milan."

Amid the scrum surrounding Klinsmann, who claimed he had no coaching ambitions for at least a few years, it was almost as an afterthought that Sugar confirmed that David Pleat will be joining as director of football on January 15.

Pleat will be in charge of the youth and scouting set-up and also involved in negotiations over players' contracts, although Sugar was anxious to stress yesterday that Gross will have the final say on who is bought and sold. If everything goes to plan, presumably all three will be united in trying to persuade Klinsmann to extend his contract come the spring.

Pleat admitted that he was flattered to have the chance to return to White Hart Lane so soon after being dismissed by Sheffield Wednesday. "I'll shall be focused," he said. "I know what the challenge embraces. It's quite a heavy one, plenty of areas with development have to be looked at and I hope it goes very well."

Pleat, Spurs manager from 1986-87, said his role was to deal with "the longer-term strategy rather than the short term." He welcomed the return of Klinsmann. "I'm delighted because obviously when he was here before he galvanised the team and raised the expectancy level of the supporters."

ROBIN MAYES

Klinsmann shows his delight at being back in the White Hart Lane fold and hopes to play just as important a role in his second spell

JÜRGEN KLINSMANN FACT FILE

1964: Born July 30

CLUB RECORD

1981: Senior debut for Stuttgart Kickers
1984: Transfers to VfB Stuttgart
1989: Joins Internazionale in Italy
1992: Joins AS Monaco
1994: Signs for Tottenham for £2m
1995: Leaves Tottenham for Bayern Munich
1997: Joins Sampdoria in Serie A. Returns to White Hart Lane

INTERNATIONAL RECORD

1987: Makes debut for West Germany in 1-1 draw against Brazil
1990: Wins World Cup winner's medal in Italy, Germany beating Argentina 1-0
1992: Is not first-choice at start of European Championship finals in Sweden but receives reprieve when Rudi Voller is injured. Germany lose in final to Denmark
1995: Captains Germany against Spain
1996: Leads Germany in successful Euro96 campaign

'It is all water under the bridge'

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Sugar on Klinsmann's arrival, July 1994
"We've told him what we have got to do and we are delighted he has chosen our club to try to win something next year and the year after."

Klinsmann on his arrival, August 1994
"Money is only a motivation up to a certain point. I came to Tottenham because I want to win something. Alan said he wanted to win the championship . . . that is why I came."

Sugar on Klinsmann's departure, May 1995
"I believed we had got him for at least another year. When I signed him, I looked in the whites of his eyes and genuinely felt we had an agreement for two years."

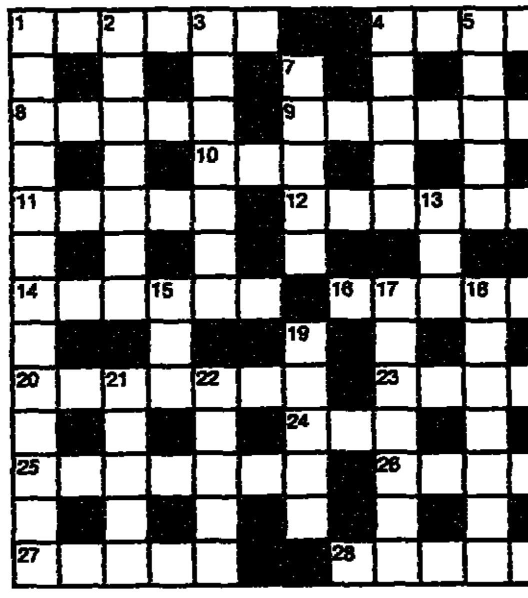
August 1995: "There are two Jürgen Klinsmanns. The one who flashes those gleaming teeth for the cameras, that lovely smile, that butter wouldn't melt in the mouth. But in private, there's a hard-nosed businessman who knows what he wants."

Klinsmann on Sugar, August 95
"He only ever talks about money, he never talks about the game. I would say there is a big question mark over whether his heart is in the club and in football. What does he like more, the business or the football?"

Sugar on Klinsmann's return
"I think we had better push everything in the past behind us. It is all water under the bridge now. It was all down to my naivety at the time . . . . I was wrong but I can't keep continually eating humble pie."

Klinsmann on his return
"Alan asked me if there was a chance of helping them out. I had to think about it for a couple of days — it was really quick — and then I said: 'OK, let's do it.' I had a fantastic year the season I was here and was very, very comfortable because people made it very comfortable for me."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1284

ACROSS
1 Panhandler (6)
4 Stunted person (5)
8 Silky fibre: Mill river (G Eliot) (5)
9 Abstain: chorus (7)
10 Euro project (1,1,1); one unable to fly (3)
11 To mature (5)
12 Unusual, foreign (7)
14 Boy chorister (6)
16 A Baltic state (6)
20 Passage from work (7)
23 Ponds: football gambling (5)
24 Sheep: sounds like a pronoun (5)
25 (Ripped) apart (7)
26 Show ring (5)
27 Ritually unclean (5)
28 Courage, character (6)

DOWN
1 As apprentice sailor (6,3,4)
2 Rock band follower (7)
3 Weapon store (7)
4 Postpone (5)
5 With speed, strength (once) (5)
6 Joyce "dream" novel (9,4)
7 Squash: infatuation (5)
13 To, at the 19 (naut.) (3)
15 Parting word: a run (3)
17 Mollify (7)
18 Forcible (7)
19 Strict, relentless (5)
21 Very little bread, comfort (5)
22 Wireless (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1283

ACROSS: 1 Bypass 4 Amos 9 Squib 10 Reactor 11 Lobelia 12 Undid 13 Credibility 17 Polly 19 Jackpot 22 Officer 23 Bucks 24 Yo-yo 25 Faulty

DOWN: 1 Basil 2 Plumber 3 Sibyl 5 Muted 6 Stride 7 Trial by Jury 8 Manual 14 Dry ice 15 Topical 16 Spooky 18 Lofty 20 Cobra 21 Testy

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Conquering hero's return brings good cheer to White Hart Lane

Brian Glanville sees the Germany striker sign on for another short but welcome stay

At White Hart Lane yesterday, Alan Sugar, Tottenham Hotspur's combative chairman, was no longer speaking scornfully about "Carlos Kickaballs". He said that the newly-returned Jürgen Klinsmann, who sat amiably beside him, and he, were friends again: indeed, had been friends for at least the past couple of years. With touching, if unexpected, humility, Sugar admitted that he "may have been a bit naive in those days, in respect to football contracts, but that was my problem, not anybody else's".

Sugar, naive? It seemed the equivalent of John D Rockefeller professing socialism, but this is Christmas-time and such endearing admissions must surely be applauded.

When Klinsmann left Spurs, after one superb season, Sugar was outraged. The implication was that Klinsmann had no right to have done what he did. In the event, a clause in his contract permitted him to do it without let or hindrance.

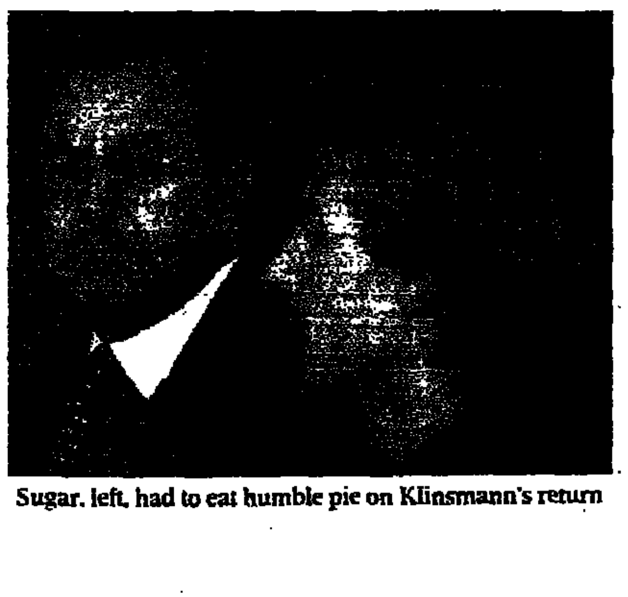
Suddenly, here he is again, his return to Italy, with Sampdoria, having lasted only a few months. Why did he want to leave them? He made no bones about it. Vujadin Boskov, the elderly Yugoslav manager, had promised him that he would be one of three strikers in their recent match against Internazionale.

The previous evening, Boskov went on television to announce that he would start with only two strikers and that Klinsmann would come on at half-time. "This was, for me, a very negative situation," Klinsmann said. "I went up to him and told him it was not the way things should be working between us."

Enrico Mantovani, the Sampdoria president, was sympathetic. Klinsmann was allowed to join Spurs again for a mere £175,000. His reception was that of a returning hero: scores of young fans milling around the stadium gates; batteries of cameras in the Bill Nicholson suite; jungles of television impedimenta.

If Klinsmann's previous club, Bayern Munich, had been as accommodating as the Italians, Gerry Francis, the former Spurs manager, might still be in charge. Francis said yesterday that he had spoken to Klinsmann several times and tried to re-sign him last season, but the German club vetoed the idea.

Christian Gross, Francis's successor, seems to have played a crucial part in the eventual signing. He even talked to Klinsmann before he accepted the job at Tottenham. It is believed that Klinsmann may have left Tottenham initially not only because he wanted to win honours, but also because he suspected that the Spurs team were going into freefall. The Swiss coach appears to have succeeded in reassuring him where Francis had failed.



Sugar, left, had to eat humble pie on Klinsmann's return

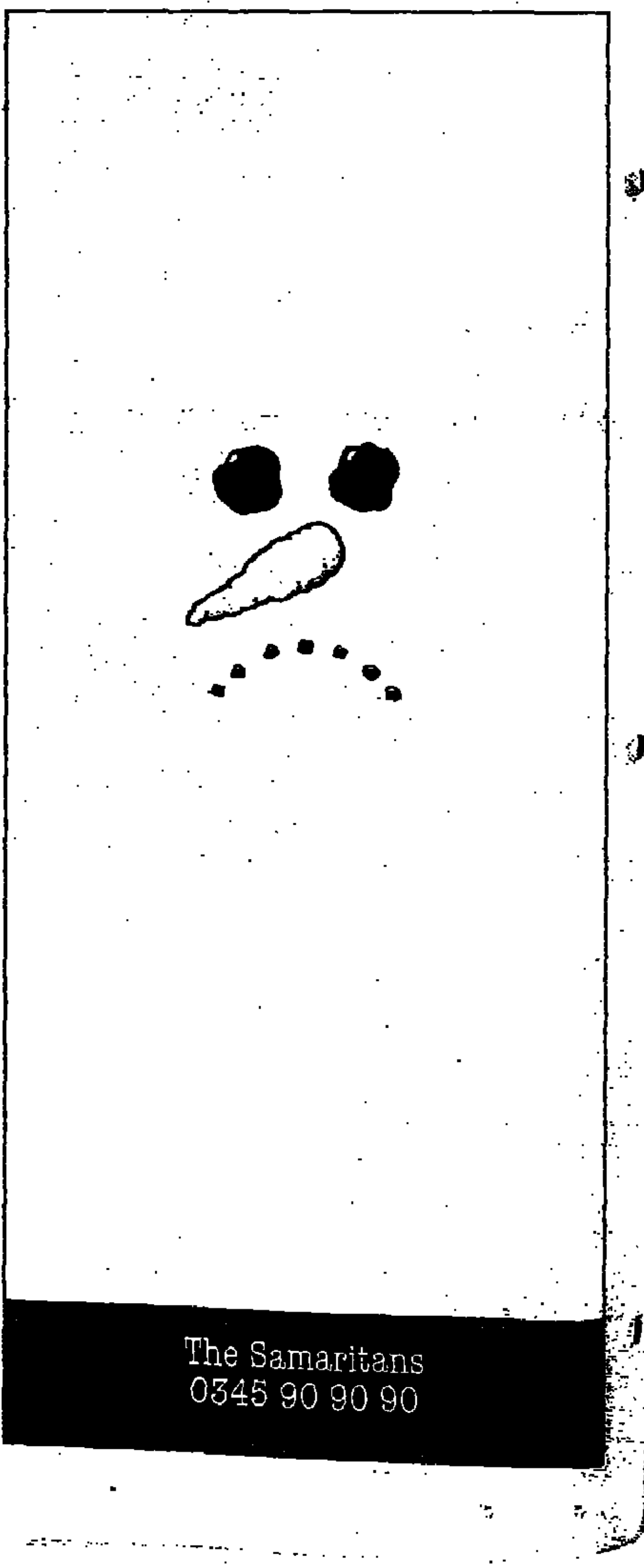
How long will Klinsmann stay at Tottenham this time? His contract lasts only until the end of the season, when he expects to captain Germany in the World Cup. He will probably make up his mind, he said, in the spring. "I'm not getting young, either. We will see what happens," he said. Berti Vogts, the Germany manager, is happy with his choice.

Why, then, did Klinsmann leave Spurs for Bayern Munich as he did? "I went home to Germany because I wanted to play for titles," he said. "I went back to Germany and I won the titles. I had some problems with the club, with the coach. My problem was I always compared it, feeling-wise, to what happened at Tottenham.

"If I ever came back to England, I couldn't possibly have considered going back to any other club, because of how the fans treated me here, it was impossible, even if it was one of the big teams in the country." He was optimistic, he said, about Tottenham's immediate future, especially if further injuries could be avoided: "The team doesn't deserve to be down there."

Nor was Klinsmann worried that so much would be expected of him. "I don't see a dnager. I'm used to the pressure. I'm used to the expectation," he said. "I don't compare myself to the one year I had with Spurs. I just go from game to game."

Sugar, Spurs and Klinsmann. Who says there is no sentiment in football? God bless us all, says Tiny Tim.



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